

Japan Slump: In America, They Call It A Recession

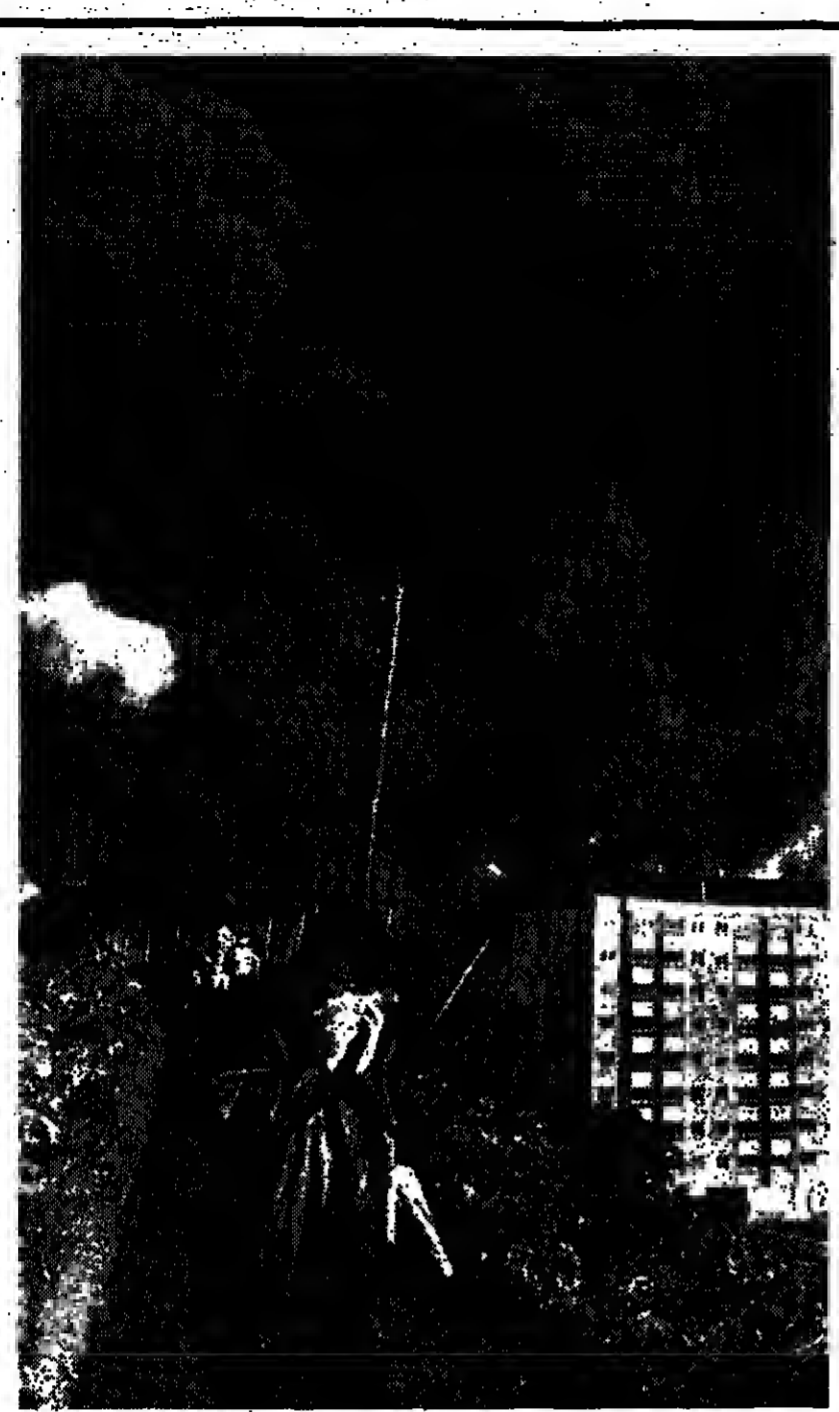
With Unemployment At 2.2%, Tokyo Asserts It's Merely a Slowdown

By Paul Blinstein

WASHINGTON Post Service TOKYO — Japan's economic slowdown reached the status of a full-blown recession Thursday...

By the U.S. definition, this is now a recession, said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers Tokyo office.

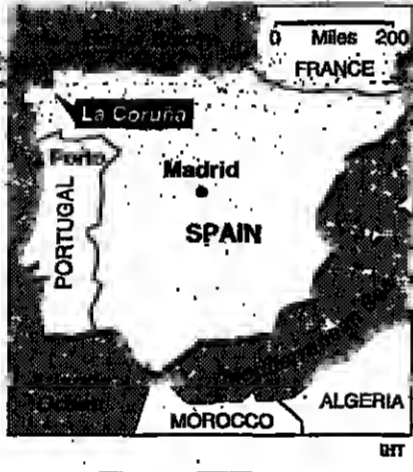
Using another measurement, gross national product, Japan's growth was zero in the second quarter and minus 0.4 percent in the third...



A resident fleeing flames from the burning tanker Aegean Sea in La Coruña, Spain.

A Major Oil Spill Off Spain

LA CORUNA, Spain — A Greek oil tanker ran aground entering this southwestern port Thursday amid a split in two, spilling vast quantities of crude that threatened beaches and marine life.



Bush Wants Troops Out Of Somalia by Jan. 20

WASHINGTON — As the United States prepared to send 28,000 troops to Somalia to clear the way for humanitarian relief, President George Bush said he wanted the troops in and out of the East African country by the time he leaves office on Jan. 20.

With hundreds of people dying daily in Somalia and the collapse of the government there, the United States and its allies were rushing to move in as soon as the Security Council approved the operation.

The first American units would include 1,800 Marines, followed by 16,000 more Marines and about 10,000 army troops, a Pentagon official said.

U.S. military officials said it was likely to be a very open display of American firepower, aimed at intimidating Somali warlords into allowing free distribution of relief supplies.

Harsh Lessons From 2 UN Fronts

In Somali Capital, a Taste Of Troubles That Lie Ahead

In Bosnia, Rising Casualties And an Ambiguous Mandate

By Todd Shields

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The giant articulated truck carried a quadruple-barrel anti-aircraft gun and a dozen grinning Somali gunmen. It was blocking the gate of a villa.

By Mary Battista

VITEZ, Bosnia-Herzegovina — On the day they reached full deployment here in central Bosnia, British troops with the UN peacekeeping force decided to drive their gleaming white tanks into the besieged town of Travnik, just down the road.

China Threatens Hong Kong Pact With Britain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — China said Thursday that Governor Chris Patten must abandon his project for democratic reform in Hong Kong or risk calling into question the basic agreements covering the handover of the territory in 1997.

Hong Kong stocks tumbled 8 percent as political worries panicked investors. Page 11.

Kiosk

Car Bomb Kills 14 in Colombia

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AFP) — A car packed with dynamite exploded here as a police patrol passed by, killing 14 people and injuring 19 in the worst attack of its kind in nearly two years, the police said Thursday.

Israel Drops an Official in Harassment Case

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — An Israeli secret police official was being relieved of his post following a journalist's complaint that he harassed her, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office said Thursday.

Table with market data: Dow Jones Down 9.72, Trib Index Down 0.49%

Table with currency exchange rates: The Dollar, Dfl, Pound, Yen, FF

General News: U.S. insurers urged a revision of the health care system. Page 3.

Business/Finance: Two airlines are dueling for a stake in Qantas. Page 11.



IRA BLAMED IN MANCHESTER BLASTS — Two of the 65 people wounded by bombs Thursday in Manchester being comforted by passers-by as they awaited first aid. Two bombs exploded during the morning rush hour. The police evacuated the city center. They blamed the Irish Republican Army.

Horizons, Lost and Found: Fantasyland in African Fantasy Land

By Bill Keller

SUN CITY, South Africa — You are in Africa, but in no particular place. The drizzling rain forest says the latitude is tropical. But that grove of pendulous baobab trees, adjusting to their new home across the lagoon-sized swimming pool, implies savannah.

Protests Spread in Germany

New Steps Target Rightist Violence

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

BERLIN — As Germans prepared new protests against the wave of anti-foreigner violence sweeping their country, leading politicians pledged Thursday to crack down on rightist terrorism.

For the first time, Chancellor Helmut Kohl acknowledged criticism that he had reacted too slowly to the wave of violence.

"Our federal and state governments are taking every legal step to combat violence and political extremism," Mr. Kohl assured foreign diplomats at a reception in Bonn. "I regret that this clear and unmistakable resolve was not understood and appreciated everywhere. None of us minimizes the problem."

Mr. Kohl's office announced Thursday that he had directed one of his senior aides to coordinate a new "interministerial working group" that will coordinate and recommend further steps in the fight against rightist violence.

President Richard von Weizsäcker told a Jewish group Thursday in Frankfurt that Germany was living through a "difficult time."

"The state has a duty to guarantee everyone a life free from fear, even those who are weak," Mr. von Weizsäcker said. "This duty must and will be fulfilled."

Rainer Voss, chairman of the Association of German Judges, urged judges to react as harshly to rightist terror as they did to leftist terror in past decades.

"If we don't do this," Mr. Voss told an audience of judges in Dresden, "we open ourselves up to the charge that the state reacts when its leading citizens are attacked, but not when the victims come from social minorities."

In Munich, a group of citizens announced plans for a mass march against racism that they say may be the biggest demonstration held in that city since the end of World War II. They hope that 100,000 people will take to the streets carrying candles to show their opposition to violent extremism. Organizations from church parishes to sports clubs to kindergartens have agreed to participate.

Honecker Disavows 'Legal and Moral Guilt'

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

LEIPZIG — The former East German Communist leader, Erich Honecker, an unrepentant revolutionary currently held in Berlin's Moabit prison, made his last stand Thursday, responding to manslaughter charges with an indignant speech dismissing his trial as "harsh" and "political show."

Hands shaking, the 80-year-old, cancer-ridden builder of the Berlin Wall read an hourlong address in which he swore, "I will not live to hear your verdict."

"The punishment you apparently have in mind will not reach me," he said.

Mr. Honecker, the first and likely only former East-bloc leader to be tried for Communist-era abuses, is charged with manslaughter in 13 of the 350 incidents in which East Germans were killed trying to flee their country. But Mr. Honecker, a fugitive from German justice for two years until he was forced out of the Chilean Embassy in Moscow in July, refused to respond directly to the charges, saying that would lead the trial "the appearance of justice."

Instead, he defended his life's dedication to communism and sought to salvage a decent reputation for the country he helped found and then watched dissolve as its people peacefully but firmly declared it a disaster zone.

"I lived for the German Democratic Republic," Mr. Honecker said, using East Germany's official name. He accepted "political responsibility" for the killing of citizens who tried to cross the Berlin Wall, but "without legal and moral guilt." Mr. Honecker said it was his superiors in Moscow who ordered the wall built and secured, not the East Germans named in official directives.



Anatoli Shabad, crouching, pushing his way toward the speakers' podium Friday as others tried to stop him.

Brawl Erupts at Moscow Congress Session

By Fred Hiatt
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — A Russian legislative session erupted into a pushing, pummeling brawl in the Great Kremlin Hall on Thursday after an emotional debate about Russia's reforms, bringing the day's session of the Congress of People's Deputies to a premature close and leaving unresolved the future of President Boris N. Yeltsin's reformist government.

Dozens of deputies shoved and jostled each other near the speaker's podium while Mr. Yeltsin at first watched in apparent disgust from his raised seat and then stalked out.

Other deputies stood on the arms of their chairs for a better view, hooting and cheering.

The speaker of the Congress, Ruslan I. Khasbulatov, cried into his microphone, "Esteemed people's deputies, defend me against these deputies!" and then made a hasty exit after declaring an indefinite recess.

Afterward, in a Kremlin lobby huzzing with excitement, some deputies decried the melee as "shameful," "repulsive" and "embarrassing." But other deputies noted that similar scenes had been recorded in parliaments in Japan and Korea, and one, Leonid Gurevich, said jokingly that Russia was simply "trying to live like civilized countries elsewhere."

The brawl ostensibly concerned a procedural matter, relating to whether an important vote on Friday would take place by secret or open ballot. But it appeared to reflect the deep anxieties of many conservative deputies, who see the power they enjoyed under the Soviet system slipping away, and the frustrations of liberal reformists, who believe progress toward democracy and a free market is being blocked by the Congress.

Many deputies said they expected the Congress to vote Friday on constitutional amendments that would strip Mr. Yeltsin of much of his authority. A no-confidence vote on Mr. Yeltsin's acting prime minister, Yegor T. Gaidar, the architect of the Russian economic reforms, was also possible Friday or Saturday, Congress leaders said.

Mr. Gaidar, 36, an economist who has defended his "shock therapy" reforms against all critics, had to listen from his front-row seat on Thursday as a parade of deputies attacked him. One accused him of "sacrificing a generation," while another said Mr. Gaidar's program was a "catastrophe."

In a brief, caustic reply shortly before the brawl, Mr. Gaidar said he would not bother to defend himself against accusations that he was an agent of "international imperialism." Then, while acknowledging serious mistakes, he asserted that his most conservative critics would lead Russia back toward the Siberian gulag.

"I am happy that everybody is now in favor of reform," he said sarcastically, as deputies hissed and booed. "This is a dramatic breakthrough because there was no shortage of opponents to market-oriented reforms only one year ago."

But if we take a look at what these proposed reforms are, we get a very interesting picture. It is proposed to give up the idea of private land ownership, to check the process of privatization, to freeze wages and prices, to revive the state-planning agency Gosplan, to call to account the former republics, which seem to have obtained too much independence and then, presumably, to build labor camps for the agents of world imperialism.

Mr. Gaidar's reference to labor camps set off another round of catcalls.

Despite the high emotions of the day, several deputies predicted that Mr. Yeltsin and the Congress were headed for compromise.

To strip Mr. Yeltsin of his power, the Congress would have to approve several constitutional amendments by two-thirds majorities, which even conservatives acknowledge are likely beyond their reach.

Mr. Yeltsin, similarly, may be unable to win the simple majority he needs to confirm Mr. Gaidar as prime minister. But his supporters say the president could refuse to nominate another candidate, keeping Mr. Gaidar in his current post of acting prime minister.

As a result, several deputies said they expected the Congress to approve a resolution attacking Mr. Gaidar's policies and calling for "corrections" while Mr. Yeltsin may add to his government a deputy prime minister more in tune with conservatives.

The brawl on Thursday centered on conservatives' desire to vote on the constitutional amendments by secret ballot. Reformist deputies asserted that a secret ballot had been sought because many conservatives were afraid to vote openly against Mr. Yeltsin.

After a confusing and procedurally questionable vote on the matter, Mr. Khasbulatov, an unpredictable but usually conservative critic of the president, declared that Friday's votes would be secret.

About five liberal deputies, including Anatoli Shabad, rushed to the podium, demanding a reconsideration. Mr. Khasbulatov then shouted into the microphone:

"I ask that I be defended from these insults! Esteemed people's deputies, defend me against these deputies!"

Mr. Shabad recalled later: "After that, quite a few burly men rushed down there and began to push us aside."

Asked who he had nudged with the slight Mr. Shabad, who lost his spectacles in the melee, said, "You'd better tell me who I didn't fight with."

Mr. Yeltsin's economics minister, Andrei A. Nechayev, a frequent target of the conservatives, said, "The Congress has disgraced Russia before the world."

The charges revived a debate over the Mafia's long-suspected efforts to penetrate state institutions, including the judiciary.

The police said Mr. Signorino, 48, left a note addressed to his wife saying he was innocent. He was found dead with a gun at his side.

His death was the third reported suicide linked to the Mafia in Sicily since late last month, when an accused Mafia boss and a suspected "counselor" to one of the island's most notorious gangsters jumped to their deaths after being arrested.

The accusations against Mr. Signorino were made by Gaspare Mutolo, a Mafia informer who caused an earlier stir in October when he identified a close aide of former Prime Minister Giulio An-

Mafia Prosecutor Found Dead

He Left Suicide Note Denying Links to Mob

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

ROME — Four days after newspapers reported accusations that he had links to the Mafia, a prominent Italian public prosecutor who played a central role in imprisoning Sicilian mobsters was found dead at his home Thursday, and the police said he had apparently committed suicide.

The accusations against Domenico Signorino were based on the testimony of a Mafia turncoat and raised questions about the status of evidence provided by informers who have become the authorities' principle source of information about the mob's doings.

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dreotti's as a link between the government in Rome and the mob.

Mr. Signorino had been one of the main public prosecutors at the so-called maximal trial in Palermo in 1987, when he demanded life sentences for 20 accused gangsters, and sought a 17 years for Mr. Mutolo, who has since turned state's evidence.

According to press leaks, Mr. Mutolo told investigators that Mr. Signorino was "close to certain circles I know."

Mr. Signorino had publicly rejected the charge, and told reporters: "If seeking 20 life sentences at the maximal means I am a Mafioso, then go ahead and call me that."

The informer's accusations against him — which have not been substantiated — recalled other occasions when senior figures in the Sicilian judiciary came under suspicion of complicity with the mob. Earlier this year, another senior public prosecutor in Palermo resigned after investigators accused him of blocking their inquiries into Mafia crimes.

But the prosecutor's death Thursday also inspired debate over the disclosure of unsubstantiated allegations by Mafia informers. "Informers are very important instruments for the fight against organized crime," said a magistrate, Vladimiro de Nunzio, "but sometimes disclosures that are made without verification cause untold damage."

The death of Mr. Signorino coincided with a fresh crackdown on mobsters in the Gela area of Sicily and with renewed efforts by investigators to move not only against Mafiosi but also against politicians presumed to be in cahoots with them.

In Gela, investigators issued 96 arrest warrants for Mafia-linked activities including extortion and murder. The small seaside town in Sicily has become an emblem of the many similar towns in Sicily where, the authorities said, the Mafia has woven itself deeply into local administration.

The ties between Italy's various Mafia-linked organized crime gangs and politicians, moreover, have come under increased scrutiny since the police in southern Italy this week arrested 11 people in connection with the 1989 murder of Ludovico Ligato, the former head of the country's state railroads.

Four of the people arrested are local politicians accused of ordering the official's assassination — the first time politicians have been publicly charged with such direct involvement in gangland murder.

Russian Crime Rises 21%
MOSCOW — Russian police have registered a record 2.25 million crimes in the last 10 months, a 21 percent increase over the same period last year, the Interior Ministry reported Thursday.

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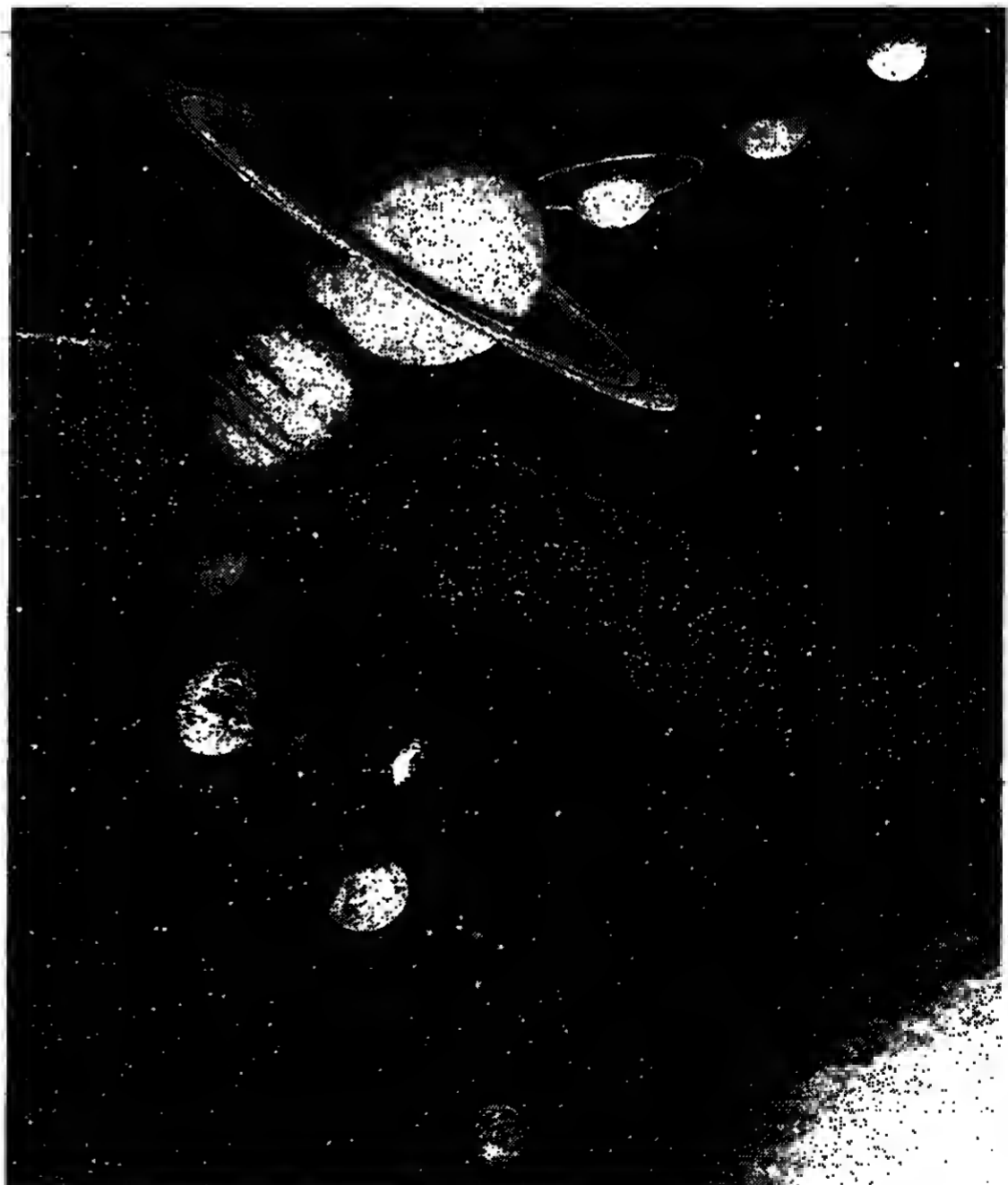
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OPINION

Opposing Russian Visions, Across the Waiting Abyss

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Looking down into the abyss of hyperinflation — a condition that bred totalitarianism in Germany — Russian leaders, old and new, are now deciding which economic model to follow.

One model is Western-style capitalism that couples political democracy with free markets. The Poles and Czechs, having accepted the hardship of such "shock therapy," are making this dual freedom work.

The other model is the sort of "capitalism with an inhuman face" practiced in China. This allows the old Communist elite to remain in power while permitting certain free markets to flourish.

Boris Yeltsin and his reformist right-hand man, Yegor Gaidar, want both halves of freedom enjoyed by Americans. They are opposed in Moscow by the Civic Union industrialists, who position themselves between the Yeltsin reformers and the nutty nationalists and Communists. These men want authoritarian control of politics and the economy, but with some toleration of private enterprise.

"The Chinese people feed themselves," said Arkady Volosky, a longtime Andropov-Brezhnev aide, "and 1.2 billion are living a life of which we can only dream." Some dream.

Those are the two visions in collision in Moscow this week. The anti-reformers are posing as pragmatists who only want to "go slow" in moving toward a free economy. They profess concern for the human hardships in the wrenching away from their old command economy.

Some Westerners — mainly Corbophiles — are touting the Volosky faction as moderate, practical and centrist, almost Clintonian in its reasonableness.

Let us not be taken in by the siren song of moderation. The anti-reformers want to stop the privatization of the huge enterprises that ought to be made competitive or shut down. They want to stop the sale of land to farmers and keep agriculture in the inefficient hands of the old collectives. Bring back price control, they say, and let bureaucrats rather than consumers decide what is produced.

In the first half of this year, reform began to take hold; private plots tripled to 20 million, and today are the bulwark against starvation.

But since July, the Russian Parliament — 87 percent Communists elected before the attempted coup — has managed to turn back the reformist clock.

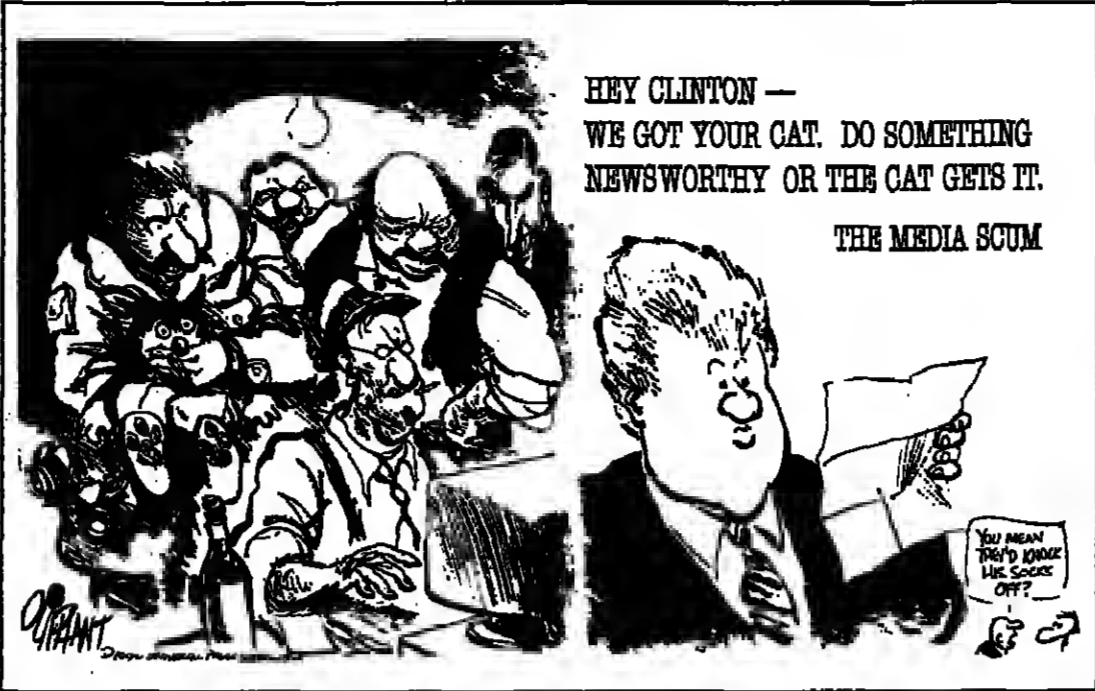
What can the West do to help Russia avert a Tiananmen economy? Western governments should reschedule the old Soviet debt, taking off a little pressure, and come through on promises of visible humanitarian aid. But private investment, joint ventures, is the answer; that will happen only as Russian reformers win their battle to establish the primacy of private property.

Mr. Yeltsin, though he bobs and weaves to avert a coup, knows this. He stopped compromising with the Volosky elite on state control of the oil industry last week, decreeing privatization. The world's largest oil producer is the most inefficient; when Russia opens the profit potential to oil, world business will help Russia get back on its feet.

We should root for the amalgam of political and economic freedom. That calls for a new constitution followed by elections, and a mandate for private farms and stock ownership of industry.

Maybe Boris Yeltsin, who retains more popular support than any Russian leader, can bring it off. From the sidelines, we should at least let the Russian people know that the American model is far better than the Chinese.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Neutral Eyes in the Sky

Regarding "Sell Photos, Not Satellites" (Opinion, Nov. 28):

The editorial writer fears that U.S. satellites, sold to other countries, might fall into "the wrong hands" and be used to "target missiles." It urges a "firm no" to foreigners' requests to buy high-tech reconnaissance satellites.

The answer to the threat of missile attacks is disarmament. The INF Treaty is a model, the Missile Technology Control Regime a useful stop-gap.

Disarmament requires assurance against bad surprises; unsuspected nuclear programs, treaty evasion, weapons buildup, training for offense, novel threats. Satellites peer into closed states, threaten exposure, and reassure the state keeping a watch.

The idea that states could simply buy satellite photos from Washington has two fatal flaws. These states could expect no effective coverage of the United States, or U.S. deployments abroad. And they could never be quite sure whether what they have been given is complete, and is what it is said to be.

Several autonomous surveillance capabilities, at least one sold to all comers without editing or selection, would promise a safer world, because mutual assurance would be more possible.

BRUCE D. LARKIN, Clonakilty, Ireland.

Happily Monarchical

Amid all the troubles plaguing the British royal family, there seems to be some confusion about the definition of modern monarchy. The British (and some of the French) have argued that they are democracies and therefore cannot accept monarchy. They seem to

overlook — or forget — the modern constitutional monarchies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It would be difficult to find more democratic nations.

In Scandinavia the monarch is the symbolic head of the land, a neutral figure who represents the constitution, never himself or herself. The monarch is a symbol around whom the whole nation can gather; he or she cannot represent only a part of the people.

In 1946, a Communist member of the Norwegian government asked King Haakon VII if His Majesty was not opposed to having a Communist in his government. "Sir," the king replied, "I am also the king of the Communists."

DAG SUNDBY, Brussels.

Women and the Church

Regarding "Only Six for Women Isn't Christian" (Opinion, Nov. 26):

Anna Quindlen's vigorous argumentation for the ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church demands a reply in favor of caution. While discussing the ordination of women recently with Mother Teresa of Calcutta, she said: "How can a woman say, 'This is my body'?"

I offer this observation by a person who can hardly be accused of having a crabbed spirit, not in the belief that it should foreclose debate, but with the hope that it indicate a properly theological aspect to the question. Or is theology just sociology writ large?

JAMES SWETNAM, Rome.

The Soul of the Center

Regarding "Crisis at Paris's American Center" (Dec. 2) by John Rockwell:

I remember well, from my days as a music student, the American Center of the 1960s. The building on Boulevard Raspail was nothing spectacular, but it offered work space for struggling musicians and artists, an inexpensive canteen, and a place where members could get a hot shower for one franc. Most of all, it offered plenty of good conversation and comradeship.

How times have changed! In the intervening years, we have had Reaganomics, the gimme decade, real estate as religion, and the corporatizing of America's soul. The current center's chairman says: "The building is the star... Artists will come in and go out year after year, but what's going to last is that building."

Sorry, but I beg to differ. Any institution that values cement and concrete more than people should cease pretending to be a center for the arts and for the humane values that the arts represent.

JOEL COHEN, Director, The Boston Cameraia, Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Screen the Candidates

Regarding "When a Candidate Is III" (Opinion, Nov. 27):

Perhaps a panel should be appointed before the next U.S. presidential election, consisting of a school teacher, a psychiatrist, a non-denominational minister, Jane Fonda and a political science professor. They could test the candidates for spelling skills (Dan Quayle), ability to grasp reality (Ronald Reagan, George Bush), physical coordination (Gerald Ford), and understanding of the Washington insider system (Jimmy Carter). The results might help voters avoid past mistakes.

THOMAS G. PALAIDMA, Salzburg.

With the GIs Into Somalia

The U.S. offer to send troops into Somalia to ensure that food reach the starving people there deserves much praise. It is incumbent on the countries of Europe, and in particular the European Community, to fully support this project, particularly when they themselves were unprepared to take the initiative.

T. J. MAHER, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels.

The Eye of the Needle

Christoph Bertram, in "Germany: Change the Slogan to 'Foreigners In!'" (Opinion, Nov. 30), is slightly off on one detail: for in practice, France does not accord citizenship to children born of foreign parents simply because birth takes place in France.

I can confirm from personal experience that such children are granted French citizenship only if the parents meet, with full documentation, a number of conditions that seem to vary in contradictory fashion depending on which official source one consults. I have been told, for example, that the granting of citizenship depends partly on one parent's having been continuously employed full-time for the five years preceding the birth, which another source in the same administration denied.

After several time-consuming attempts, I have abandoned trying to obtain French citizenship for my son; his mother and I are unable to fit through the eye of the bureaucratic needle. I am American and my spouse is a non-EC West European.

VINCENT M. BLOCKER, Paris.

Mom in the Weight Room Doing Legs With Emilio

By Diana Morgan

WASHINGTON — I used to be cursed with skinny arms. Now I am such a regular at the neighborhood gym that the men there call me Terminator 3; they say I remind them of Linda Hamilton, the actress who flexed along with Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Terminator 2." What I really am is a mom who has discovered the psychic comforts of pumping iron.

I started lifting free weights a year ago after my second child was born.

MEANWHILE

Taking care of two kids under age 3 was like being trapped in a trash can with Oscar the Grouch. I needed a break. I found it in the weight room of the Capital Hill Squash and Fitness Club.

I was shy at first, and a little out of place. Most women at the club go upstairs to the stationary bicycles or over to the aerobics classes. Very few join the men in the weight room, where the light falls harshly and the floor is carpeted in black rubber. Mirrors reflect rows of chrome hand weights and pyramids of thick iron discs. Beely, half-naked men stand in front of the mirrors and heft weights the size of fire hydrants. They groan loudly and their eyes bulge.

I got over my fear by closing my eyes, gritting my teeth and pretending that I, too, had arms the size of hams. I apologized when I wanted to take a turn on a machine, and I pestered the staff with naive questions. I lifted ever larger weights and watched my muscles grow. I didn't think too much. It was exhilarating. Surrounded by the faint odor of male sweat, I learned a muscular peace that is usually off-limits to harried mothers.

Every morning now I park my 1½-year-old daughter in the gym nursery and head upstairs to the free weight room. I whip out my notebook and for each exercise record the muscle group, the weight and the number of repetitions. In the mirror my eye follows the soft curve of new muscle.

The subtlety of female anatomy impresses me. The men usually go for bulk. They strain to lift immense weights, bragging afterward about the amount of body weight they have put on. I am going for definition, a goal that requires many repetitions of a lower weight.

Still, I have learned that lifting weights is not just about developing or defining muscle. The fun is decoding the movements and finding the mental grit to lift a weight over and over.

Some days at the gym I work on my back muscles, on others my arms and chest, but the high points of the week are the leg days. Twice a week I do squats, a maneuver that entails balancing across my shoulders a pole loaded with 155 pounds (70 kilograms) and then bending and straightening my knees 20 times. As I lift the pole I feel the muscles contract

and am always surprised by how powerful they are. The weight glides effortlessly through the air. I imagine myself not as Linda Hamilton, but as Arnold himself.

By the 19th squat, my leg muscles are shrieking and my heart is pounding. I only make number 20 through stupid determination. When I put down the weight I am high on adrenaline.

It is hard to find such intensity of focus taking care of children. On any afternoon in our kitchen, my daughter is climbing onto the stove, my 4-year-old son is walloping the oak table with a child's wooden croquet mallet and the phone is ringing. Usually there is lunch to be wiped off the wall, and I am preparing for a nervous breakdown.

Relief comes in the mornings. Sometimes I do legs with Emilio, one of the weight room staff. We spot each other on the weights, yanking to no great purpose, the main point being the lifting. We compare notes, but without any edge of competition. It's a male sort of experience. I think, enjoying by doing together.

With my female friends, who tend to be of an intellectual bent, we talk about our children with great intensity, peering into every crevice of their lives, analyzing each speck of childhood dust. Emilio and I listen thoughtfully to each other's stories, but much of the joy of the conversation is that, like lifting weights, it is separate from the rest of life.

I have not been able to persuade the other mothers to join me in the weight room. Like many women they are uncomfortable with their bodies. I think it takes conceit as well as discipline to stand half-naked in front of a mirror pumping iron.

And there are days when all I can see are the bags under my eyes from late nights with my daughter, or the belly not fully recovered from two pregnancies. On bad days like that, it is easier to have an aerobics instructor or a Nautilus machine take the lead.

An older lady told me in the locker room that she hated seeing women lift weights because it was so disturbing when they grunted. Emitting animal sounds and having big muscles is not considered feminine. My guess is that Linda Hamilton, who graced and graced all the way through "Terminator 2," was acceptable only because she attacked the bad guys to save her young son. She was just a mom with muscles, swept up in a storm of maternal rage.

Sometimes when I'm lifting, a couple of men will come stand around and watch. Often one will whistle in a friendly way. Then they ask after my kids and say what a help it must be to have such strong arms with which to carry them.

Diana Morgan is a Washington writer specializing in science and women's issues. She contributed this comment to The Washington Post.



Alan B. Graf, President and CEO Akzo Salt Inc., USA:

Room to move

"Without hesitation I'd say we're the most dynamic supplier in the North American salt market. Which is quite remarkable, since we're also one of the largest. In fact, together with our parent company we're the

leading salt producer on the planet. Akzo headquarters supports us with the most advanced technology. That helps. But even more essential for our success is the cure Akzo found against big company lethargy: a cor-

porate framework which allows us room to move. I have the freedom to run this multi-million dollar business as if it were my own. And I pass that freedom on. That makes it so much easier to create the right chemistry."

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CREATING THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY



I H T S U

THE ARTS GUIDE

The Essential Brasserie

At Train Bleu, Watch the Comings and Goings

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — If you are looking for the quintessential Parisian brasserie, you have it in Le Train Bleu, the grand, glorious, sparkling Belle Epoque restaurant decorated in 1900 in honor of the World's Fair.

The two giant dining rooms — with their eclectic, "neo-Renaissance baroque" decor — are adorned with signed paintings by more than 30 provincial artists, each selected to depict the glories of his region. The paintings fill the walls, curving up onto the ceiling, and their cheeriness is particularly welcoming on gray Parisian days.

Train stations are always points of suspension and anticipation — everyone is either coming or going, so they are a no-man's-land — which makes Le Train Bleu an intriguing spot. I sometimes go especially to people-watch: gazing at the pair of chatty Germans on the adjacent banquette, wondering who that gentleman is, dining alone in the corner with his Paris Match and half-bottle of Bordeaux; studying the young, lean waiters, performing their fast-paced ballet as they rush from table to table.

The food here is more than "correct," meaning there's a good chance you'll leave satisfied, with an appetite to return another day. Try the top-quality poached Lyonnais pork sausage (direct from the Lyonnais charcuterie, Stibilla), served with warm steamed potatoes; a satisfying salad of green beans, lobster and lamb's lettuce; an acceptable salmon steak served with the tarragon-flavored Béarnaise sauce, and a fine steak tartare, prepared tableside and seasoned to your taste.

THE service is as good as one could anticipate at a place as bustling as this, although it could be a touch more personal and cheery. The dull white bread, on the other hand, desperately needs attention. The wine list offers a fair, and fairly priced, assortment of French wines, including a fine red Saint-Joseph from the wine mak-



Nickolas Andri/ART

er Philippe Faury. The restaurant offers a 280-franc menu *à la carte*, which it promises to deliver in 45 minutes, that includes foie gras, leg of lamb and dessert.

Le Train Bleu, by the way, was the legendary train that, up until the 1970s, took passengers from Paris and Calais to the blue skies of the Côte d'Azur.

If anyone can make a go of a Parisian brasserie, it should be Joël Fleury, longtime associate of France's brasserie king — Jean-Paul Bucher — best known for Brasserie Flo, La Coupole, and the group of Flo Prestige charcuteries.

After years as a leader of the Flo group, the youthful, energetic and energetic Fleury has decided to set out on his own. He recently took over the flailing Grand Colbert. The 120-seat restaurant boasts a huge wood-and-chrome bar, giant balloon lamps, black leatherette banquettes and etched glass panels that divide the room into smaller, more intimate dining areas.

Fleury hasn't yet turned the place around, but I'd bet good

money that in six months it will be packed day and night. Le Grand Colbert still lacks that properly boisterous Parisian ambience. But the decor has promise and the menu offers great value, with a 155-franc menu that includes a first course, main course, dessert, coffee and a small carafe of wine.

The menu is traditional, but ample enough to keep most of us quite happy. If I could give one word of advice to the chef, it would be: Keep things simple and classic and leave creativity to another day. Papillon oysters were fresh and welcoming, and the simple green bean salad was fine, save for the lack of basic seasoning.

The boeuf gros sel — various cuts of beef boiled with root vegetables — was copious, with more than three pieces of beef and the delicious *quatre de boeuf* or ox tail, swimming along with varied vegetables in a decent stock. The dish, however, served in a shallow soup bowl, was almost impossible to eat. Thankfully, the chef did not tinker with the simple serving of saumon à l'australaise, perfectly cooked and served with wild mushrooms and a clump of spinach alongside.

DSSERTS need help: Le Grand Colbert offers the famed upside-down apple tart, tarte Tatin, as a special, but I found nothing special about a room-temperature apple tart sprinkled with sliced almonds and set in a pool of caramel sauce.

The wine list is more than satisfactory, with a 1989 Guigal Gigondas at 136 francs, a drinkable 1991 Saumur-Champigny, Réserve des Vignerons at 111 francs, and a 1991 Dubouef Julienas at 104 francs.

Le Train Bleu, Gare de Lyon, Paris 12; tel: 43.43.38.39. Open daily. Credit cards: American Express, Diners Club, Visa. Menu at 280 francs. A la carte, 300 francs.

Le Grand Colbert, 2 Rue Vivienne, Paris 2; tel: 42.86.87.88. Open daily. Credit cards: American Express, Visa. Menu at 155 francs, including wine. A la carte, about 200 francs per person.

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig (tel: 782.550). To Jan. 3: "Bertrand Lavier." A retrospective of the French artist's work.
Gastarrichthia Galeria (tel: 78.41.58.28). To Jan. 8: "Ferdinand Hodler und Wien." A selection of Hodler's masterpieces, mainly portraits and landscapes.

BELGIUM

Brussels
Musée d'Art Moderne (tel: 509.7498). To Dec. 13: "Wisdom and Compassion: The Sacred Art of Tibet." Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day. Includes 150 paintings, sculptures and tapestries. To Feb. 14: "Sickert." One hundred and thirty-four paintings commemorating the 50th anniversary of the British artist's death.

BRITAIN

London
Hallina House (tel: 831.1772). To Jan. 16: "Denny Lyon: Photo-Film 1858-1980." The first British retrospective featuring works by this American ethnographic photographer.
Royal Academy of Arts (tel: 509.7498). To Dec. 13: "Wisdom and Compassion: The Sacred Art of Tibet." Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day. Includes 150 paintings, sculptures and tapestries. To Feb. 14: "Sickert." One hundred and thirty-four paintings commemorating the 50th anniversary of the British artist's death.

CANADA

Montreal
Canadian Centre for Architecture (tel: 938.7020). To Jan. 17: "The Gates of 18th-century Montreal." Exhibition marking the city's 350th anniversary. Explores architectural development during the 18th century and features 350 plans, manuscripts, tools and artifacts, along with a scale model of the city.
Ottawa
National Gallery of Canada (tel: 960.1985). To Jan. 10: "William Kurelek." An installation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Ukrainian's arrival in Canada.

Prague
Národní Muzeum (tel: 269.451). To Jan. 3: "Four Generations of Polish Designers." Set designs and costumes by artists such as T. Rozzkowska, J. Kosiński, M. Kolodziej and A. Majkowski.

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou (tel: 42.77.12.33). To Jan. 11: "Art in Latin America, 1911-1988." Paintings, sculptures, drawings and engravings by 82 artists from South and Central America. To Jan. 24: "Peter Fischer et David Weiss." An installation comprised of ordinary objects that offers a new perspective on modern times. To Feb. 1: "Univers de Borges." Manuscripts, books, and some of the emblematic objects that belonged to the Argentine writer.

San Francisco
L'Espaca Suffren (tel: 47.34.09.34). To Dec. 20: "David Hamilton: 25 Years of an Artist." An exhibition of photographs since the artist's book of the same name, *Jeu de Paume* (tel: 47.03.12.50). To Jan. 31: "Marial Rayssa." A retrospective of the neorealist's films and videos.

St. Louis
Musée Placasse (tel: 42.71.25.21). To March 1: "Corpe Crucies." A survey of 30 of Picasso's works, executed between 1892 and 1959, which center on the crucifixion.

Washington
Hazenbrouck
Musée Hazenbrouck (tel: 26.41.88.00). To Dec. 31, 1994: "Diálogos 1." Large collection of 17th-



"Anietta and Mona," from David Hamilton's book; inset: "Kurt Vonnegut," in Karsh exhibition in New York.

century Dutch paintings by the likes of Bosch, Rubens and Brueghel.

Marseille
Musée de Marseille (tel: 91.56.25.38). To Jan. 17: "Gaetano Pisco." An exhibit of five new glass-working techniques.

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou (tel: 42.77.12.33). To Jan. 11: "Art in Latin America, 1911-1988." Paintings, sculptures, drawings and engravings by 82 artists from South and Central America. To Jan. 24: "Peter Fischer et David Weiss." An installation comprised of ordinary objects that offers a new perspective on modern times. To Feb. 1: "Univers de Borges." Manuscripts, books, and some of the emblematic objects that belonged to the Argentine writer.

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GERMANY

Frankfurt
Shirn Kunsthalle (tel: 299 88 20). To Feb. 10: "Gabriela Monter." A retrospective of the German painter who was at one time married to Kandinsky.

Well am Rhein
Villa Dealin Museum (tel: 702.200). To March 28: "Miniaturen." A series of classical miniatures which exemplify furniture design over the past few decades.

INDONESIA

Jakarta
World Trade Center (tel: 521.1125). To Feb. 28: "Raksasa." Indonesian sculptures executed between the 10th and 20th centuries.

IRELAND

Dublin
The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 718.666). To Jan. 10: "John Heartfield." Photomontages which critique the rise of Hitler and right-wing ideologies in Germany and elsewhere. Includes a reconstruction of the first Da Da room, exhibited in 1920.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem
The Israel Museum (tel: 708.811).

To Feb. 3: "British Figurative Paintings of the 20th Century." Seventy-five paintings by 24 artists of the "School of London," including Michael Adams, Frank Auerbach, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud.

JAPAN

Kitakyushu
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art (tel: 093.882.7777). To Jan. 24: "Henry Moore Exhibition: 'Intima.'" Two hundred and fifty of the artist's works.

Tokyo
Gotoh Museum (tel: 3703.0661). To Dec. 25: "Tea Ceremony Utensils." Sixty items by the Momoyama/Edo period tea masters Sen Rikyū and Kobori Enshū.

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam
Van Gogh Museum (tel: 570.5200). To Feb. 7: "Glasgow 1900: Art & Design." More than 100 paintings, drawings and crafts from artists of the Glasgow School.

SPAIN

Barcelona
Fundació Joan Miró (tel: 329.1906). To Jan. 10: "Gilbert and George: The Cosmological Pictures." Twenty-five large-format pieces produced by this pair of British

artists who started working together in the '60s.

SWITZERLAND

Basel
Museum für Antike Kunst und Ludwig Sammling (tel: 271.22.02). To March 28: "Paradoses: Representations of Animals from Ancient Persia in the P. Suter-Darsteiler Collection." Sculpture from diverse provinces and different epochs of ancient Iranian civilization.

UNITED STATES

New York
International Center of Photography (tel: 768.4682). To Jan. 24: "Karsh: American Legends." Illuminates legends such as Hylan Hayes, Jasper Johns, H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Leonard Bernstein through black-and-white and color photographs.

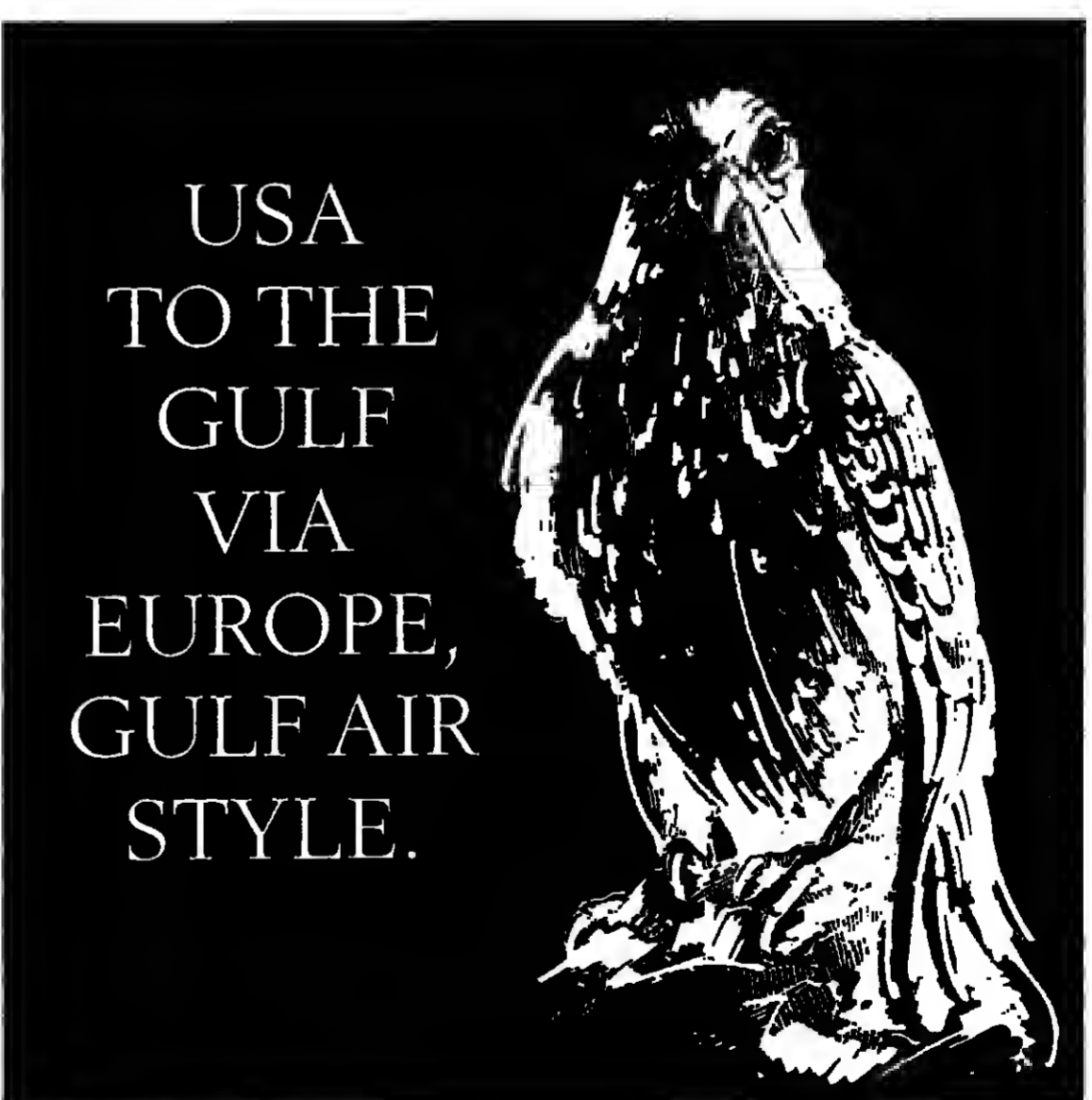
Washington
National Museum of the American Indian (tel: 357.2700). To Jan. 24: "Pathways of Tradition." More than 100 baskets, blankets, cradleboards and headdresses, which culturally represent Indian tribes from North, South and Central America.

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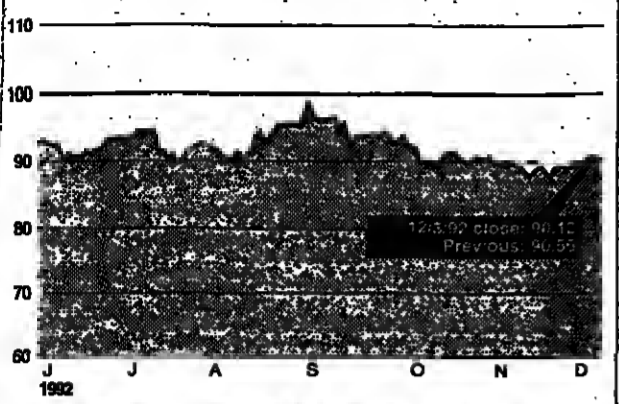


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Table with 3 columns: Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America. Includes sub-tables for Industrial Sectors like Energy, Utilities, Finance, Services, Capital Goods, Raw Materials, Consumer Goods, Miscellaneous.

For readers desiring more information about the International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, a booklet is available free of charge...

WALL STREET WATCH

Environmental Industry: A New Chance to Clean Up

By John Holusha, New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The passing of the Bush administration and the likely demise of its regulation-diluting Council on Competitiveness are generally considered good news for companies in the environmental business...

The end of the Bush years is considered good news.

Grant Ferrer, editor of the newsletter Environmental Business Journal, said growth in the environmental industry slowed sharply in the 1990s after gaining at a 20 percent annual rate for most of the 1980s...

German Solidarity a Kohl Solo Act

By Brandon Mitchener, International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — A nebulous "solidarity pact" championed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl as the solution to a revival in Eastern Germany...

But the so-called Solidarpakt, which is supposed to be unveiled by Christmas, looks increasingly lopsided and more than likely will fall short of its indirect goal of a quick cut in German interest rates...

Indeed, though the pact started out as a broad plea for mutual sacrifice by federal, state and local governments, trade unions and industry, it now looks as if Mr. Kohl will be making most of the sacrifices himself...

The Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung bluntly called the Solidarpakt an attempt by the government to find partners in misery. Its conclusion: "The government wants security."

Germany Backs Trade Deal

By Brandon Mitchener, International Herald Tribune

BONN — As President François Mitterrand of France arrived Thursday for two days of talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, German officials supported an EC accord with the United States on farm subsidies that Paris has threatened to veto...

Germany said that it considered liberalizing trade more important than protecting farmers.

The economics minister, Jürgen Möllemann, told German radio, "It would be very problematic, if on top of a recession that has hit most of the world, we also fell into a trade war that would drastically reduce our chances of ending this recession."

But French and German officials said they had agreed to postpone discussion of the trade issue until after the European Community summit on Dec. 11 and 12, allowing EC leaders to focus on other problems.

Dieter Vogel, chief spokesman for Mr. Kohl, said the leaders' initial two-hour talks focused on speedy ratification of the Treaty on European Union, on EC finances and on expansion of the Community.

The president and the chancellor agreed that negotiations with potential candidates for membership in an expanded EC should begin early next year and be completed by the end of the year, he said.

In Brussels, the United States and the EC disputed the technical details of the agreement to end the dispute over subsidies to European farmers.

In Hong Kong, Stocks Teeter on Precipice's Edge

By Erik Ipsen, International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Following the steep sell-off Thursday on the Hong Kong stock market, investors in Europe and North America held on to their nerve and their shares, but analysts warned that further falls could quash what confidence remains.

The Hong Kong stock market benchmark indicator, the Hang Seng index, collapsed 8.0 percent in its third day of panic trading.

Analysts outside the colony appeared less convinced than many in Hong Kong that the damage would be long-term, although outside analysts were not exactly sanguine.

"Things are at a fairly critical point," said Chris Mitchell, head of the Far East desk at James Capel in London. He and others see the 4,800 level on the Hang Seng index as a crucial support point that, if breached, could throw stocks into a free fall.

Given that the Hang Seng stood at 4,978.21 at Thursday's close, that does not allow a huge margin of safety. It is especially troubling given the fact that the market dropped by 433 points on Thursday. In terms of the number of points shed, that fall was the worst since the massacre outside Tiananmen Square in Beijing in June 1989.

Since it hit a record high of 6,740.83 three weeks ago, the Hang Seng has dropped by 23 percent.

On the other hand, volatility is a long-established fact of life in the Hong Kong market. "It is the nature of Chinese institutional and individual investors to come in and go out of the market very quickly," said Siebbee Bridges, the head of Asian equities for Daiwa Europe.

Certainly it was those local investors hitting the exits who have led the market rout of recent days. European investors have largely stood pat while there were reports of scattered buying from American pension funds smelling an opportunity, and some selling from Japan.

"It may be a horrendous ride in the meantime, but it is hard to ignore places whose economies are growing as fast as Hong Kong's," said Bill McBride, international editor at Lipper Analytical Services, a firm that monitors investment funds in New York.

Many analysts point out that not only are Hong Kong's blue-chip companies increasing their profits at a nearly 15 percent annual clip but that their share prices are a bargain. At present levels the average price of stocks in Hong Kong companies is 10 times next year's expected earnings. That is dirt cheap by international standards.

At the other extreme, Japanese P/E ratios stand near 30. What brokers hope is that the steep discount on Hong Kong stocks now fully reflects the political-risk factor. At this point that is little more than a guess. "At the moment, the market has nothing to hang its hopes on except on the outcome of the Legislative Council meeting in February," said James Capel's Mr. Mitchell. That body will either accept or reject the proposals for political reform put to it by the Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten — the proposals that have so outraged Beijing.

Having earned fat returns on their Hong Kong investments in recent years, many foreigners express displeasure with Britain for suddenly rocking the gilded boat. "Despite the breath of fresh air represented by Mr. Patten, my view is that perhaps it should have come 10 years ago rather than now at the very end of their administration," said a senior American banker in London.

Outside the colony, the common assumption is that Hong Kong's ever-pragmatic business leaders will simply rein the new governor in. After all, it is argued that even if he did persist in his efforts to bring a greater degree of democracy to Hong Kong, there could be no guaranty that it would be sustained after the Union Jack is lowered for the last time, in 1997.

Similarly, outsiders see Beijing as having only limited room to maneuver. Nervous investors seeking alternative homes for their funds face a quandary. In the early autumn, the Hong Kong market benefited from money being pulled out of Japan, but so too did some other Asian markets like Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia. Now many investors think those markets have gotten too expensive. In the absence of those alternatives, some brokers expect funds flowing out of Hong Kong to be directed back toward Japan or possibly the United States.

Gutfreund To Pay SEC \$100,000

By Michael Richardson, International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — John H. Gutfreund, the former chairman of Salomon Inc., agreed Thursday to pay \$100,000 and never again run a Wall Street firm, resolving charges stemming from last year's Treasury bond-bidding scandal.

Mr. Gutfreund and two other former top Salomon officials settled federal civil charges that they failed to adequately supervise the firm's brokerage unit, which has admitted making bogus bids in Treasury auctions.

Richard C. Breeden, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, said the settlements marked the first monetary fines ever imposed on securities industry officials for failing to supervise a firm's activities. The fines levied against them were the maximum allowed under the law.

Along with Mr. Gutfreund, Salomon's former president, Thomas Strauss, was barred from the industry for six months and fined \$75,000. Former vice chairman John Meiwether was barred for three months and fined \$50,000.

None of the men, who were forced out after the scandal came to light in August 1991, admitted or denied wrongdoing.

The three were charged with failing to supervise Paul W. Mozer, the former head of Salomon Brothers' trading desk, which had submitted a false \$3.15 billion bid in a Feb. 21, 1991, Treasury auction.

During the time when Mr. Mozer was violating the auction rules, "senior management knew of the problem and chose to do nothing," Mr. Breeden said.

Salomon has blamed Mr. Mozer for the wrongdoing. "The SEC's long investigation has established that the Salomon Brothers over which I presided was an honest firm that was severely victimized by the impossible misconduct of an isolated individual," Mr. Gutfreund said in a statement.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Suitors in Duel for Qantas

By Michael Richardson, International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — If British Airways PLC makes its expected bid next week for a 25 percent stake in Qantas Airways Ltd. of Australia, it will be offering to bring the airline in to a global alliance that would pose a challenge to many other carriers but especially to Singapore Airlines, seen as the other leading contender in the bidding.

Analysts say that such an alliance would provide greater long-term benefits to Qantas than any deal Singapore Airlines, known as SIA, is likely to put forward on Dec. 9.

"They say that while SIA wants to work more closely with Qantas to expand the services of both airlines without engaging in cut-throat competition, its interests are essentially competitive and defensive."

The prospect of a marriage between British Airways, one of the world's largest and most profitable carriers, and Qantas, a leading player in Asia-Pacific aviation, "stirres fear into the hearts of senior SIA executives," said Colin M. Gibson, publisher and executive editor of Asian Aviation magazine.

If British Airways is successful in its bid and forges an effective commercial link with Qantas it would create two "very tough competitors" for SIA, said Peter Harrison, managing director of BDW Aviation Services, an airline consultancy based in Sydney.

He added that because there is "greater commonality of interest" between British Airways and Qantas than between SIA and the Australian carrier, this would result in "a stronger product package."

While SIA and Qantas are rivals in the Asia-Pacific aviation market, British Airways is weak in Asia and strong in Europe and across the Atlantic to North America where Qantas has little presence.

This complementary would be enhanced if BA's proposal to form a code-sharing alliance with US Air Group Inc. was approved by U.S. authorities later this month.

Under code-sharing, allied airlines continue to fly as separate carriers but coordinate schedules so they can pass connecting passengers to each other as though they were traveling on the same service.

GM Identifies 9 Plants to Be Closed

By Michael Richardson, International Herald Tribune

DETROIT — General Motors Corp., moving to stem massive losses in its North American car operations, on Thursday announced the shutdown of nine U.S. and Canadian plants affecting nearly 18,000 workers.

GM announced last December plans to close or consolidate 21 assembly and parts plants by late 1995, including six assembly plants, four engine plants and 11 component plants. Thursday's announcement brings the number of plants GM has earmarked for closure to 23.

Some of the affected workers will be able to transfer, while others will be laid off, GM said.

The world's biggest carmaker said it would idle assembly plants at Wilmington, Delaware, and Flint, Michigan.

GM also will close parts plants in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Syracuse, New York; Euclid, Ohio; Trenton, New Jersey; Livonia, Michigan; and Sioux City, Iowa.

GM also said it would either sell or close its rear-axle operations in St. Catharines, Ontario, by late 1993. It also will accelerate the previously announced shutdown of a casting plant at the same site to the fall of 1994 from the spring of 1995.

GM's North American vehicle operations have lost about \$15 billion since 1990, including about \$3 billion on a pretax basis through the first nine months of this year.

Disastrous with the pace of GM's downsizing and its continued losses led to the resignation under fire of Chairman Robert C. Stempel in October.

Separately, Robert J. Eaton was elected chairman of Chrysler Corp. on Thursday, replacing Lee A. Iacocca, who is retiring.

Mr. Eaton, 52, was also elected chief executive by the board of directors. The changes take effect Jan. 1.

The selection had been expected.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Table with columns: Cross Rates, Eurocurrency Deposits, Key Money Rates, Forward Rates. Includes sub-tables for various currencies and interest rates.

Table with columns: Dollar, D-Mark, Swiss Franc, Sterling, French Franc, Yen, ECU. Includes sub-tables for various currencies and interest rates.

VACHERON CONSTANTIN advertisement featuring a watch image and text: VACHERON CONSTANTIN, GENEVA SINCE 1755. The Principal Paying Agent: Banque Internationale à Luxembourg Société Anonyme.

IFINT advertisement: IFINT Société Anonyme, Registered Office: Luxembourg - 2, Boulevard Royal R.C. Luxembourg B-6734. NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS: Payment of Interim Dividend. A net Interim Dividend of US\$ 0.70 per ordinary share and US\$ 0.80 per preferred share will be paid for the current fiscal year.

MARKET DIARY

Broad Market Rises As Blue Chips Fade

Bloomberg Business News NEW YORK — Blue-chip stocks fell for a third straight session Thursday on Wall Street, while the broader market headed higher with help from signs of an economic recovery.

N.Y. Stocks

advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange outnumbered decliners by a small margin.

"A couple of stocks weighed down the Dow industrials," said Dale Tills, manager of institutional equities trading at Charles Schwab Corp.

The market shook off a big slide in stocks of oil and retail store companies. Oil issues, led by Atlantic Richfield and Pennzoil, fell amid jitters about a 14 percent drop in crude prices since early October.

Advanced Micro Devices was down 2 1/2 percent on reports it received government approval for a new microprocessor.

"People are starting to worry about profits again," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment strategist at First Albany Corp.

The pound, forced out of the grid along with the lira in September, proved the surprise choice for traders with lingering doubts about the long-term stability of the ERM.

The British currency basked in a new status as a safe haven, climbing 4 percent to 2.4758 DM in late European trading.

The French franc was comfortably around the 3.40 level to the mark for most of the day, buoyed by evidence that recession in Germany might lead to a cut in interest rates sooner rather than later.

What action did occur on the dollar Thursday was due to promising economic data from the United States that contrasted markedly with the signs of growing recession in Germany.

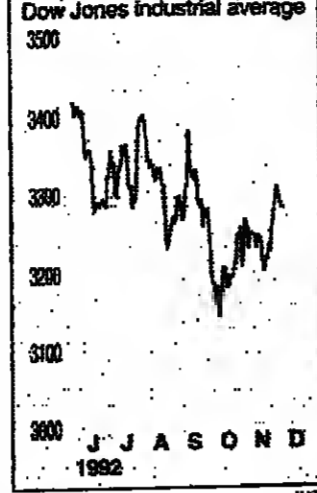
The U.S. government reported that factory orders had risen 1.7 percent in October and that weekly claims had declined by 12,000.

As for the German economy, Thursday's story was dismal data on gross domestic product, unemployment and output. The net effect was to reiterate rate cut hopes that investors had shelved earlier in the week.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table of world stock markets including Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Milan, Madrid, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Stockholm, Toronto, Zurich, and others. Columns include stock names, prices, and changes.

The Dow



Dow Jones Averages

Table of Dow Jones averages including Industrial, Utility, and Composite indices. Columns show Open, High, Low, Last, and Change.

Standard & Poor's Indexes

Table of Standard & Poor's indexes including Industrial, Utility, and Composite indices. Columns show High, Low, Close, and Change.

NYSE Most Actives

Table of NYSE most active stocks including Amgen, Intel, and others. Columns show Volume, High, Low, Last, and Change.

AMEX Stock Index

Table of AMEX stock index showing High, Low, Close, and Change.

Dow Jones Bond Averages

Table of Dow Jones bond averages including 30 Bonds, 100 Bonds, and 20 Bonds. Columns show High, Low, Close, and Change.

Market Sales

Table of market sales including NYSE 4 a.m. volume, NYSE 9 a.m. volume, and AMEX 9 a.m. volume.

N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading

Table of N.Y.S.E. odd-lot trading including Buy and Sell volumes for various stocks.

S&P 100 Index Options

Table of S&P 100 index options including Call and Put options for various strikes.

AMEX Diary

Table of AMEX diary including Advanced, Declined, Unchanged, and Total Issues.

NASDAQ Diary

Table of NASDAQ diary including Advanced, Declined, Unchanged, and Total Issues.

EUROPEAN FUTURES

Table of European futures including Sugar, Cocoa, and Coffee. Columns show High, Low, Prev, and Close.

Metals

Table of metals futures including Aluminum, Copper, and Zinc. Columns show High, Low, Prev, and Close.

Stock Indexes

Table of stock indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng. Columns show High, Low, Prev, and Close.

Financial

Table of financial futures including 3-Month Eurodollars, 6-Month Eurodollars, and 9-Month Eurodollars.

U.S. FUTURES

Table of U.S. futures including Wheat, Soybeans, and Corn. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

Grains

Table of grain futures including Wheat, Soybeans, and Corn. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

Livestock

Table of livestock futures including Cattle, Hogs, and Pigs. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

Food

Table of food futures including Coffee, Cocoa, and Sugar. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

Zurich

Table of Zurich futures including Gold, Silver, and Platinum. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

BERMAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIPPE)

Table of Berman government bonds including 10-year and 30-year maturities. Columns show High, Low, Close, and Change.

Industrials

Table of industrial futures including Gasoil, Ethanol, and Soybeans. Columns show High, Low, Last, and Change.

Spot Commodities

Table of spot commodities including Coffee, Cocoa, and Sugar. Columns show Today, Prev, and Change.

Dividends

Table of dividends for various stocks including Amgen, Intel, and others. Columns show Company, Dividend, and Yield.

U.S. Outlook Continues to Brighten

NEW YORK (Combined Dispatches) — More signs of a slowly improving U.S. economy were reported Thursday in manufacturing and the labor market.

The national level of unemployment claims totaled 362,000 and has been trending downward for two months from the recession level of 400,000.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the largest U.S. retailer, said its November sales jumped 23 percent from year-earlier levels.

Martin Marietta, Pratt in Engine Deal

WASHINGTON (WP) — Martin Marietta Corp. has reached an initial agreement with Pratt & Whitney to manufacture jet-engine components, a deal that could be worth \$1 billion over 10 years.

Westinghouse Adopts Bylaw Changes

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Westinghouse Electric Corp. said Thursday that its board had unanimously adopted a series of bylaw changes proposed by management.

For the Record

Philip Morris Cos. said it would buy a 7.9 percent interest in Fomento Economico Mexicano SA, Mexico's leading beverage company.

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corp. agreed to pay Scripps Research Institute more than \$300 million over a decade in exchange for first rights to drug discoveries by the center's scientists.

Morris Knudsen Corp. said it received a \$100 million contract to design and make 50 new-generation Viewliner cars for Amtrak.

TWA has won an extension of its exclusive right to file a reorganization plan. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Helen S. Balick granted the extension through Jan. 12 after lawyers for TWA and its unsecured creditors told her negotiations on the plan were progressing.

U.S. FUTURES

Table of U.S. futures including Wheat, Soybeans, and Corn. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

Grains

Table of grain futures including Wheat, Soybeans, and Corn. Columns show Section, Open, High, Low, Close, and Change.

Livestock

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Zurich

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Stock Indexes

Table of stock indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng. Columns show High, Low, Close, and Change.

Commodity Indexes

Table of commodity indexes including Coffee, Cocoa, and Sugar. Columns show Today, Prev, and Change.

EUROPE

German Economy Shrinks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
BOONN — Pressured by the budget deficit and battered by high interest rates, the economy in Western Germany contracted 0.5 percent in the third quarter, as factory output fell and unemployment grew.

quarter of 1991. Measured by gross national product, which includes overseas holdings, the economy contracted 1.5 percent quarter-to-quarter and was the same size as a year earlier.

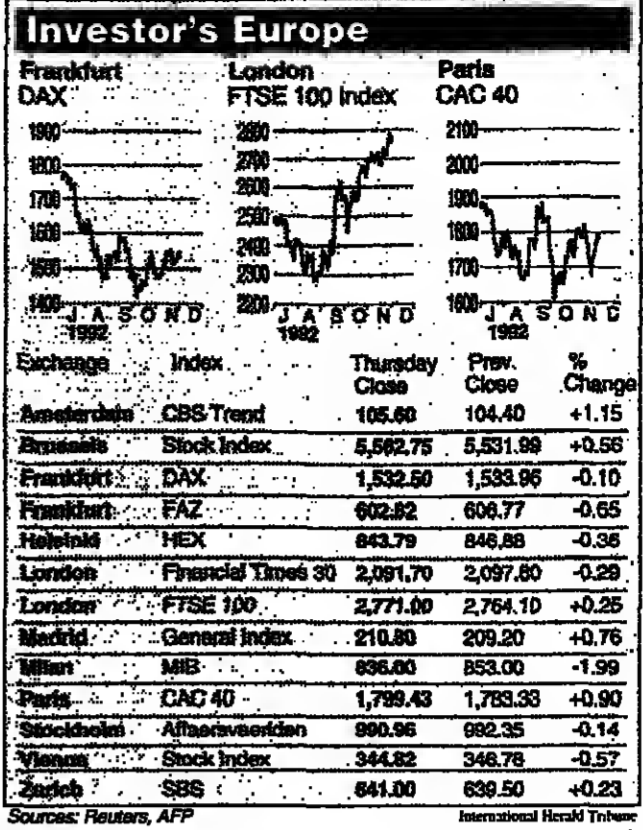
16,200 Jobs To Go at U.K. Post Office

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — The British Post Office said Thursday it would shed 16,200 jobs over the next five years to increase efficiency.

Pillsbury's Slide Hurts Grand Met

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — Grand Metropolitan PLC on Thursday reported a 5.1 percent fall in annual profit, saying bumper vegetable crops and recession had squeezed earnings at its U.S.-based Pillsbury food business.

performance from the Green Giant division, a part of Pillsbury. Profit at the foods division fell 16 percent from a year earlier, to £210 million, pulled down by the problems at Green Giant, weak demand and a price war in the sector.



Very briefly:

- DAF NV said its reorganization was not having enough effect, and the Dutch truckmaker plans an accelerated far-reaching restructuring and a reduction of personnel that will affect all layers of the organization.
• Volvo AB said its U.S. car sales in November rose 27.3 percent, compared with November 1991, to 5,673.

QANTAS: Suitors in Duel

(Continued from first finance page)
400 million Australian dollars (\$273.2 million). The merger, combined with the end of a long protracted Qantas from carrying passengers within Australia, was approved by the government to make the enlarged carrier more attractive to investors.

SOLIDARITY: Kohl Struggles

(Continued from first finance page)
one in Hungary, also cited cheaper labor as a major reason. West German industry, another potential partner in the pact, also sees little incentive in voluntarily increasing investments in the East.

Eric, an economist at Schröder Münchener Hengst, told Reuters. "But it gives a clear indication of the general trend. The balance of power has tipped in favor of the employers."

Commerzbank Profit Up

FRANKFURT — Commerzbank AG reported Thursday a strong increase in profit over the first 10 months of the year, but tempered that by telling investors not to count on a richer dividend.

Hanson Profit Up Despite Recession

LONDON — Hanson PLC said Thursday that its profit rose 9.2 percent in its fourth quarter, despite the recession.

Table of international funds including ARC INVESTMENT & SERVICES CO (EC), BROADBENT INTERNATIONAL FUND, and various equity and bond funds.

Table of international funds including INTERNATIONAL FUNDS, DIT INVESTMENT FUND, and various equity and bond funds.

Table of international funds including SAC Global Yield, SAC Global USD Yield, and various equity and bond funds.

SPORTS BASKETBALL

Go-Go Googs: Bullets' Rookie Is a Quick Study

By Tony Kornheiser
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — You weren't happy the day of the National Basketball Association's draft. You weren't saying, "Googoos," you were saying, "Boooooo."

You didn't want Tom Gugliotta. You wanted Walt Williams. You wanted Harold Miner.

Guess what? You were wrong.

The guy you got can run, jump, pass, dribble, rebound and shoot. Honestly, what else is there?

On reflection, Googs managed a victory grin. "Yeah, I think they were very wrong," he said the other night, after helping the Washington Bullets beat the San Antonio Spurs with a performance that has rapidly become routine at home: 22 points, 11 rebounds. "I knew this would be a good team for me. I was the kind of player the Bullets were looking for to fit in with Pervis and Michael and Harvey."

Tom Gugliotta is a work in progress. The surprising thing is how fast he's progressing. As teammate Pervis Ellison observed: "He's got a jump shot, and the other team knows it. He knows they know it, so he's past the first hurdle. Now they have to come up on him, and what Googs has to do is go around them. He can do that too, Bingo!"

Shaquille O'Neal has already won the rookie of the year award. If Shaq gets hit by a bus and never plays another game, he still gets the trophy. Everybody else is playing for second, and it's a crowded field; this is the deepest pool of rookies since the 1984 class that produced Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, John Stockton, Hakeem Olajuwon, Alvin Robertson, Sam Perkins, Kevin Willis and Otis Thorpe.

Already, Christian Laettner and Alonzo Mourning are thrillers. Lloyd Daniels, LaPhonso Ellis, Walt Williams, Clarence Weatherspoon and Robert Horry are scoring in double figures, as was Bryant Stith before he got hurt. Todd Day and Hubert Davis are slightly under. Among all these rookies, including O'Neal, Gugliotta was first in steals through Tuesday's games, third in rebounds — ahead of Mourning and Laettner — third in assists, and fourth in scoring. So now, you're not saying, "Googoogs," you're saying, "Wow!"

Is it a surprise? To a degree.

The Bullets saw Gugliotta had the body to help them: 6 feet, 10 inches, 240 pounds (2.1 meters, 108 kilograms). They didn't know if he had the skills. As far as the coach, Wes Unseld, was concerned, it was a coin flip between Gugliotta and Adam Keefe. Everybody said you could throw all the picks between No. 5 and No. 14 in a hat and hold a grab bag.

"If you asked people, 95 percent would've said Shaquille would be good from the beginning," Gugliotta said. "But who was I?"

As late as the day Gugliotta signed, there were sources high in the Bullets' organization whispering fretfully, "What if he can't play?"

It turns out he can.

It turns out Googs does everything a smidge better than the Bullets dared hope. The coaches didn't know Googs could run or rebound this well. Michael

Adams said, "I didn't know he could pass the ball the way he does; you rarely see that in a guy his size."

Harvey Grant is impressed at how "fearless" Googs is. "Plus," as Lloyd Price used to sing, "he's got a great big heart." They've sent Gugliotta out to guard the roughest, toughest players in the league, like O'Neal, Derrick Coleman and David Robinson.

"I felt confident I could succeed at this level," Gugliotta said. "But, how early? I expected it to be real tough to get minutes — not only to get minutes, but to produce. I guess the biggest surprise is how prepared I was physically, coming in. I get beat on a lot, but I think I've been able to hold my own."

Then he blushed at what he was about to say next: "This is the first level I have come into feeling I could dive on the floor and come up with a loose ball. Even in the ninth grade I was physically intimidated."

Gugliotta thinks the pro game suits him

because it's wide open compared with college ball. "It makes everything one-on-one, or two-on-two. That helps me," he said. "Not too many 6-10 guys like to come on the perimeter to guard you." If they don't, he can hit jumpers all night; he's shooting 49.5 percent. If they do, he's gone, bingo, like Ellison said.

Still, he's prone to rookie fever. Just look at his lines: Game 1, against Charlotte, he makes 9 of 12 shots; the next night, against Orlando, Googs is one for six. Against Utah, he was unconscious, 17 for 24 and 39 points; the next night, in New York, zero for eight. The Bullets point at this graph and chuckle, "Larry Bird, Big Bird."

This kind of wild fluctuation is endemic to rookies. It's part of the NBA education. "You play once a week — twice, tops, in college. In the NBA, there are four games in five nights," Ellison explained. "In the pros, you may score 39 one night, but you've got to play the next night."

"There are a lot of great athletes, guys who can do amazing things with the bas-

ketball," he said. "But the ones who succeed are the ones with self-motivation. Not just the night of the game, the night before the game. You can't disco all night and think you're gonna disco on the basketball floor."

Ellison paused, smiled, and continued the lesson: "There's two sides. That's one side. The other side is 'rookie.' The answer to a guy going one for nine the night after he went 8 for 14? You ask anybody in this locker room, the first word out of their mouth is, 'Rookie.'"

Teams have already changed how they play Googs. Which is what happens after you score 39.

"Now when I catch the ball there's somebody there wherever I am on the court," he says. "They're out giving me the open shot I had early. I guess they're on to me."

Tommy Gugliotta, a floppy 22 years old and not even once around the league yet, rolled his eyes and giggled.

Orlando's Putting the Magic Back Into the NBA

By Scott Howard-Cooper
Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Do you believe in Magic? Do you believe in the Magic? Can you believe the Magic?

The Orlando Magic, at 8-4 leading the Atlantic Division with a .667 winning percentage, are preaching that the future, the foreseeable future that is, is even brighter.

Whatever lies ahead, though, the 4-year-old franchise is the NBA's team of the hour, drawing attention at every stop with its 20-year-old center, a superstar in the making.

With No. 1 draft choice Shaquille O'Neal, the outfit that won 21 games last season, worst in the Eastern Conference, is suddenly one to be reckoned with. And Orlando has four first-round picks in the next two drafts.

But if NBA fans are surprised by the Magic, so is the man in charge of putting the team together.

"As we go around the country, we're an attraction, we're selling out buildings," said the general manager, Pat Williams. "But we are not a dominating team. We're trying to keep it all in perspective. Are we a playoff team? I don't know. That is one of our next goals."

"Were we expecting this? Would we be happy at 8-4? I

think we would have jumped on it in the summer." It certainly has gang-tackled it in the fall.

O'Neal is, says Williams, "very raw, very inexperienced." He is also averaging 22.4 points, a league-leading 15.3 rebounds and 3.33 blocks per game, and is shooting 54.3 percent.

Dennis Scott has returned after two operations on his right leg that limited him to 18 games last season, during which he averaged 19.5 points.

Nick Anderson, Orlando's first college draftee, continues to develop into a top swingman, at 6-foot-6 and 205 pounds (1.98 meters, 93 kilograms) a versatile offensive weapon who can post up or show range on a jump shot.

Scott Skiles, the gritty point guard, is sixth in the league with 8.3 assists while adding 16.3 points and shooting 54.4 percent.

Jeff Turner, the least-known starter despite having played in the 1984 Olympic team, began 1992-93 as a 46.3 percent shooter, but suddenly is shooting 58.6 percent, tops in the NBA.

In all, three starters are hitting better than 50 percent, and the team is shooting 49.8 percent and averaging 109.3 points, sixth in the league. The starters are carrying the heavy load, with Turner at 30 minutes a game and the four

others getting at least 37. Last season Anderson led at 36.7.

In 1991-92, Orlando shot 45.3 percent, the lowest in the East, averaged 101.6 points and didn't get its eighth victory until Jan. 17. But the dramatic improvement isn't enough to account for the Magic's becoming a top draw around the league. O'Neal is, though, and road attendance for Magic games, 21st in the NBA last year at 14,949, has jumped to seventh at 17,270.

O'Neal has made the biggest impact, but the real development could not have happened without Anderson and Scott taking advantage of double-teaming in the post by hitting from the outside. A trade Thursday that brought 3-point specialist Steve Kerr from Cleveland for Orlando's second-round draft choice in 1996 would seem to add even more air cover.

The bonus is that Orlando is off to such a start without Terry Catledge and Brian Williams. Catledge, who led the team in rebounding last season while averaging 14.8 points, broke his right hand on Nov. 18 and might be out another month. Williams, the first-round pick in 1991, played 22 minutes in four games before going on the injured list because of clinical depression. There is no time frame for his return.



Tom Gugliotta: "I think I've been able to hold my own."

Arkansas Upsets No. 8 Memphis State

Jamal Mashboro was well known before the college basketball season began, but at this rate, Othella Harrington's name may soon begin making the rounds, too.

Mashboro, a preseason All-America, got off to a slow start Wednesday night as he was held without a point or rebound in the

beginning their comeback in the first game of the season for both teams.

Arkansas took the lead at 50-49 when Shepherd scored on a rebound basket, capping a 15-0 run. Corey Beck, who played prep ball in Memphis, made two foul shots with 29 seconds left, putting Arkansas ahead 79-76.

Audience Hardaway, who led Memphis State with 27 points, missed a 3-pointer and Shepherd rebounded. That led to two free throws by Roger Crawford.

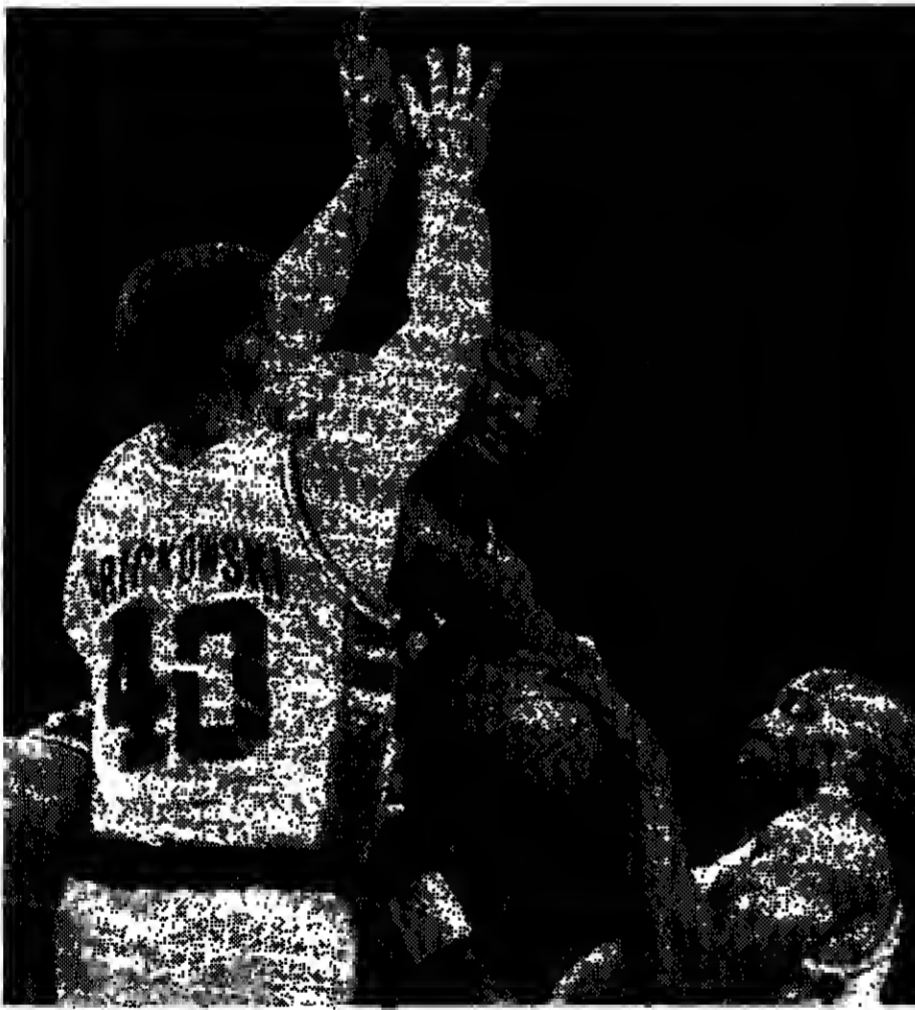
No. 11 Florida State 67, No. 19 Massachusetts 64: Doug Edwards scored 19 points, and his two free throws with eight seconds left helped Florida State hold off visiting Massachusetts.

The Seminoles took the lead for good with 2:11 left when Edwards' tip-in made it 64-62. The Minutemen closed to 65-64 with 1:04 left on Derek Kellogg's two foul shots, but missed a 3-point try in the final seconds.

Louis Roe had 19 points and 14 rebounds for Massachusetts.

No. 14 Georgetown 88, St. Leo 49: Dwayne Spencer, another 6-10 freshman at Georgetown, had 10 rebounds as the Hoyas roused at home.

Robert Churchwell's 3-pointer with 13:37 left in the first half ignited a 25-2 run by Georgetown.



Alvin Robertson got a smile and a jump ball from Miami guard Kevin Edwards, Milwaukee got a victory.

Jordan's Absence Again Felt As Celtics Belt the Bulls, 101-96

The Boston Celtics, still learning how to play without Larry Bird, have given the Chicago Bulls a lesson in life without Michael Jordan.

With Jordan nursing a sprained left foot, the Bulls had no answer for a second-half rally Wednesday night that gave the Celtics a 101-96 victory and the Bulls, over a span of seven seasons, their fourth straight defeat with Jordan on the sideline.

"We would like to prove to ourselves we can play without Michael," said Scottie Pippen, who missed 14 of his 21 shots.

The Celtics, after Bird's retirement, got off to a 2-8 start, their worst in 14 seasons, but are 6-9 now after winning four of five.

Ironically, Bird was at Boston Garden to attend his first Celtics game of the season. He saw Reggie Lewis, who has struggled as his successor as the go-to guy, wind up with 32 points, 7 assists and 4 steals — all season-highs — and turned the game around with 8-for-9 shooting in the third quarter.

Boston trailed by 51-44 at half-time before Lewis scored 16 points in the third period as Boston outscored Chicago, 34-19, for a 78-70 lead.

"It's great to win the game with Larry in the stands for the first time," Lewis said.

"They really utilized him in the third quarter," Pippen said of Lewis. "He really got me fatigued."

Boston hit 68 percent of its shots in the third period, while the Bulls sank 39.1 percent.

"Their defense got us back on our heels and, offensively, everything seemed to click for them," said the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson. "We took some shots that were unwarranted, and we shied away from shots we should have taken."

Hornets 111, Warriors 110: Charlotte handed Golden State its fifth loss in six home games behind Larry Johnson's career-high 36 points, which included making 18 of 19 free throws and a go-ahead jumper with 1:04 left.

Johnson made 18 straight foul shots before missing his 19th, which would have tied the NBA

record set by Bob Pettit in 1961, and tied by Bill Cartwright (1981) and Adrian Dantley (1987).

Bucks 100, Heat 97: Milwaukee matched Portland with the best record in the NBA at 10-3 as Frank Brickowski had 23 points and 10 rebounds against visiting Miami.

Blazers 112, Pacers 103: Reserve forward Cliff Robinson scored a

career-high 31 points, rallying Portland from a 16-point deficit to victory in Indianapolis.

The Blazers rallied despite having only one starter, point guard Terry Porter, on the floor in a three-guard alignment. Porter, who scored 21 points, gave Portland the lead for good at 81-80 on a drive with 10:39 left.

Nets 122, Hawks 115: New Jersey took advantage of Kevin Willis' ejection with two technicals to win at home against Atlanta.

Derrick Coleman, who missed the last two games with back problems, led the winners with 21 points, while Drazen Petrovic had 20.

Spurs 96, 76ers 82: David Robinson had 27 points and a season-high 21 rebounds as San Antonio, on the road, handed Philadelphia its fifth consecutive loss.

Missing Jordan

The Associated Press
BOSTON — How important is Michael Jordan to the Chicago Bulls?

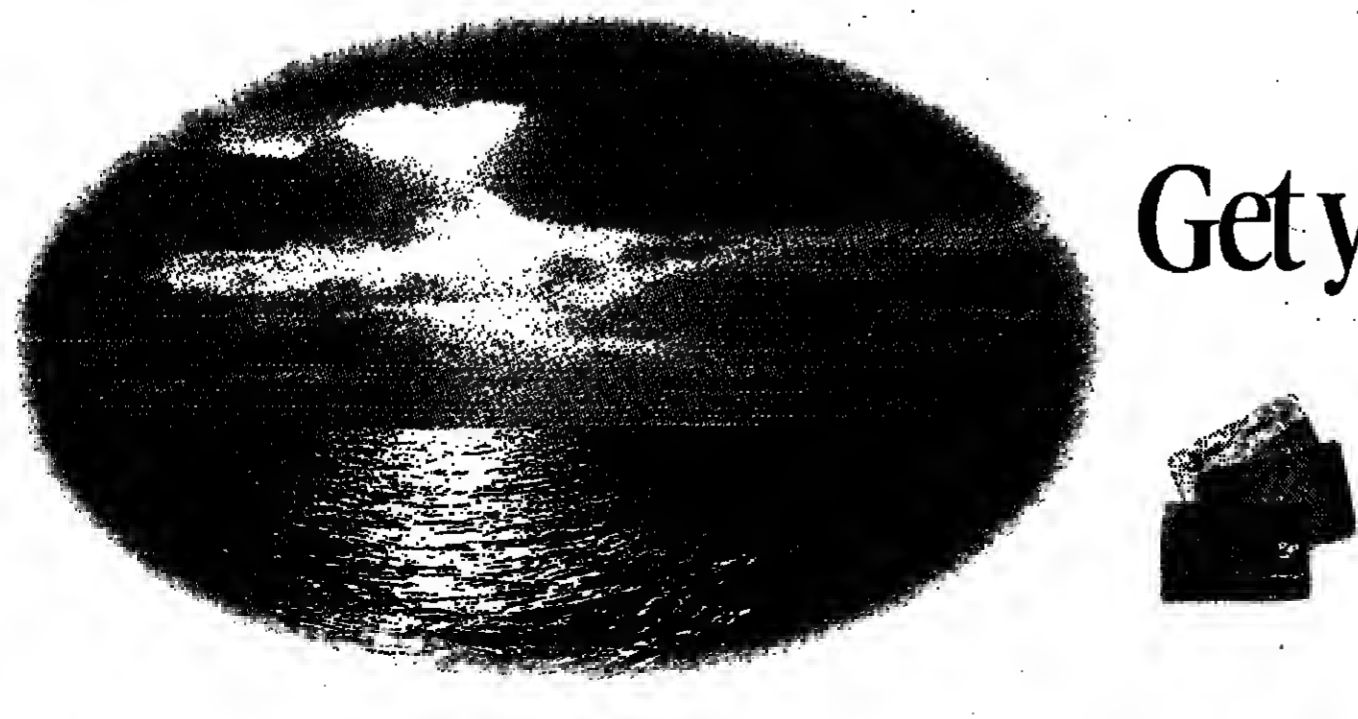
Consider: He sat out 64 games in the 1985-86 season, his second in the NBA, with a broken foot. The Bulls posted a 30-52 record. They finished fourth in the Central Division, but 27 games behind Milwaukee and just four ahead of last-place Indiana.

Before the loss Wednesday night, Jordan had missed just three other games in seven seasons, and Chicago lost them all — 104-95 to Boston in 1988-89, and 126-114 to Phoenix and 115-100 to Cleveland last season.

He was hurt in two of those games, and in the third served a one-game suspension for bumping a referee.

"That's 33 points we're missing," the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson, said Wednesday. He said he told his players "they may have to get used to this. It may be more than one game."

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OBSERVER

The Short-Movie Policy

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — People said you had to see "Malcolm X." It was a news event. Everybody would be talking about it. It would be the basis for a new philosophy. If you hadn't seen "Malcolm X," you'd have no right to take part in the great policy debates it would fuel.

It made "Malcolm X" sound like a course in civics. What ever happened to going to the movies for the fun of it? Even movies that are supposed to be simple-minded fun for the simple-minded are hard to take nowadays. Look at the typical shoot-'em-up. If you like watching heart-transplant surgery and enjoy sitting through a good autopsy you'll love movies of the "Rambo" and "Terminator" school.

The publicity about "Malcolm X" made it sound like spinach: not much fun, but good for you. I figured it had to be seen. My life is a testament to the power of the notion that mankind should never flinch from things that are good for it, no matter how feeble they be.

I eat not only spinach but also Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. I took physics and calculus in school, though neither was required and both humiliated me. I read Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" and, despite medical warnings, remain determined to read every book Henry James ever wrote.

Such has been my enslavement to the proposition that humanity ought to improve itself through suffering. When it comes to movies, however, my policy has changed. The change occurred long ago after I spent two or three weeks watching "Gandhi."

Like calculus, "Gandhi" was supposed to be good for you. It made Gandhi out to be a preposterously boring man of inhuman oolity. I was amazed, having supposed that it would take a very interesting, flawed man to clear the British out of India.

When "Gandhi" finally stopped, I adopted a policy change affecting movies. Thereafter any movie that was good for you had to do its good work in less than 2 hours and 16 minutes. If it didn't I was entitled to pass it up.

To compensate, I would spend an extra hour each day for a week reading something that was not fun, but good for me. This policy not only excused me from a 3-hour-and-8-minute experience with

"JFK," but also enabled me to read 17 pages of Henry James and, best of all, let me leave the room quietly whenever people who had seen "JFK" started quarreling about the Warren Commission.

Except for the post-"Gandhi" policy, I would not only have had to see "JFK" but also read the Warren Commission report, a veritable Everest of legal and federal prose beside which Henry James's "The Golden Bowl" seems as frothy as reading "Peter Rabbit" in a shaded Cotswolds glade.

When I heard that "Malcolm X" was in the "Gandhi"-"JFK" ballpark — three hours and then some — my policy left no choice. It had to be passed up until it is cut to 2 hours and 15 minutes, which is probably a good idea. Practically everything can be made better with cutting, and that includes Henry James. Yes, especially newspaper columns.

So instead of seeing "Malcolm X," I saw "Bram Stoker's Dracula." Why? The publicity hinted that it was not at all good for you, and the alternative was a reread of "Home Alone," which is basically "Woody Woodpecker" with humans.

Are "Home Alone" movies giving children the impression that a cute kid is more than a match for the famously murderous thugs? The spirit of W. C. Fields, who is said to have despised cute kids, lurks behind these movies. Their deeper aim may be to tempt cute kids to invite obliteration when felony is afoot.

Professional reviewers, who probably see too many movies for their readers' good, have abused the latest "Dracula" unjustly. True, it has absolutely nothing on its mind except special effects, but these are entertaining in a silly way. Like most movies, it is also too long, and this lets the audience realize it's boring.

But "Dracula," of course, has always been boring. Stoker's book is boring. The Bela Lugosi classic is boring after that smash opening in Transylvania. The new version's special effects and sexual explicitness lack the audience success. Lacking these resources, the 1931 Lugosi "Dracula" was content to call it a show after a mere hour and 15 minutes.

If "Gandhi" had been so wise, this column would have been about "Malcolm X."

New York Times Service

Rob Reiner: Out of His Father's Shadow

By Bernard Weinraub

LOS ANGELES — For Rob Reiner, the film "A Few Good Men" carries remarkable personal resonance. Not that Reiner has served in the navy or faced a high-stakes military trial, which is the centerpiece of the movie.

Instead, the 45-year-old director identifies almost eerily with the navy lawyer Daniel Kaffee (played by Tom Cruise), whose glib, wise-guy style masks intense fears about living in the shadow of a father, now dead, who was a renowned naval attorney general.

"In all my films," said Reiner, who had struggled for years to move out of the shadow of his own father, the writer and director Carl Reiner. "I've got to find something I can book up with, connect with. Kaffee is in the same business as his father; I'm in the same business as mine. Everywhere I went when I started out, it was 'Carl Reiner this,' 'Carl Reiner that.' He's the nicest man in the world, incredibly sweet-natured, but it was frightening to be compared to him."

The film opens next Friday in the U.S. to a blizzard of promotion, largely because of its high-powered stars. Along with Cruise, the cast includes Jack Nicholson, playing a hard-edged, highly decorated Marine colonel, as well as Demi Moore as a member of Kaffee's defense team.

Adapted by Aaron Sorkin from his 1989 Broadway play, the movie traces a navy lawyer's quest for justice in the case of two marines accused of murder because of their punishment of a Marine private at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The question to be resolved: Did the Marines act on their own, or were they obeying orders?

"What we're dealing with here is a very strong moral dilemma," Reiner said, seated on a cream-colored sofa in his airy, vaguely Southern-style office in Beverly Hills. "Where do you draw the line between being loyal and following orders, and acting on your own when something is immoral or illegal. It's the same moral dilemma the Nazis dealt with at Nuremberg, or Calley at My Lai. And it doesn't just apply to the military. We all live in corporate or business cultures. We're all subordinate to somebody else. We all have to make decisions about what's right and what's wrong."

At the center of the moral dilemma is the lawyer Kaffee, who was played by Tom Hanks on Broadway. "I got a call from Rob, who said he wanted to direct the movie," Cruise said, "and I should see the play. I called him that evening and said, 'I'm in.'"

Reiner, who is unpretentious and gregarious, enjoys working with actors but also spends an unusual amount of time with writers, revising scripts line by line. According to Sorkin, the drama, which received mixed reviews but ran for more than a year, was almost entirely overhauled



Rob Reiner finds in his films "something I can book up with, connect with."

for the movie. The "smoking gun" in the Broadway play (a doctored logbook) was eliminated from the film. Reiner apparently felt that with a smoking gun, you didn't need a brilliant lawyer. Instead, he wanted the character of Kaffee to be cunning.

"It was done page by page," Sorkin said of the revision process. "It was loud and intense and passionate work. If someone in the script asked for a glass of water, Rob would ask, 'Why a glass and not a cup?' He kept saying, 'How does this fit into the puzzle?' The script had to be rock solid. He won't let you get away with one extra line. He needed every question answered."

Sorkin described Reiner as "very articulate" about his yearning to focus on the father-son elements. "I came through very young when we were working on the movie," he said. "He would tell me stories about how difficult it was to grow up being the son of a famous father."

Rob Reiner is the oldest of three children of Carl and Estelle Reiner. "I wasn't easy for him, because he was impatient and he knew what he wanted," said Carl

Reiner, who has been in show business for more than 40 years. "But he was lucky to have the intelligence and the talent."

"Rob was a self-starter. He never asked for introductions. He was into it from the start. He was born into a show-business house, he really did it all by himself."

The son said that it took years for him to distance himself from his father. "When I was a little kid, I wanted so badly to be like him I once said to him I want to change my name. And he said, 'To what?' And I said, 'To Carl.'"

Apparently unready to leave the subject of childhood and separation behind, Reiner will next direct a fantasy called "North," based on a novel by Alan Zweibel, a television comedy writer. The movie concerns a 9-year-old boy who decides to become emancipated from his parents.

producer, "playing things a little too safe, not quite pushing the envelope further or being more of a heavyweight."

But Reiner seems to be satisfied with his choices; his priority is finding stories that strike a personal chord. One was Stephen King's novel "Misery," which he turned into the 1990 film about a writer, played by James Caan, who is trapped and kept prisoner by a lunatic fan (Kathy Bates).

"It was very personal in a weird way," said Reiner, who perversely saw "Misery" as the story of a man, not unlike himself, who was trying to branch out creatively. "Here I was, a television actor for eight years," he said of playing Methead. Archie Bunker's son-in-law, in the long-running CBS series "All in the Family." "I was famous, and everyone knew me, and I wanted desperately to become a film director. And it was very hard for people in this community to accept that. It took me years."

Similarly, he found personal resonance in the 1989 romantic comedy "When Harry Met Sally..." which portrayed a couple (Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan) treading the delicate line between friendship and romance. Reiner, who divorced the director Penny Marshall in 1981 after 10 years of marriage, said that the movie "was born out of my experience of being thrown out in the dating world and being very confused about whether you could be friends with a woman, or did sex always have to come into the equation."

(Since 1989, Reiner has been married to Michele Singer, a photographer; they have a 1-year-old son.)

Reiner has been able to pursue such visions because of his relationship with Castle Rock, one of the larger and more successful independents. His total control over casting and production is rare. So, for "Misery," he cast Caan, whose career was then in the doldrums, and Bates, a stage actress who was virtually unknown on the screen.

Had Reiner worked at a studio, the Caan-Bates casting would have been virtually unthinkable. Bates, who won an Academy Award for the part of the deranged fan, Annie Wilkes, said of the director: "He and I really played Annie together. His eye was always in sync with my emotions."

Reiner considers his breakthrough to be "Stand by Me," a critically well-received movie about boyhood friendships that opened two years later.

"It was a rite-of-passage film," he says. "It was closer to my personality than anything I had done up to then, and it's something my father never would have come near. When I was making it, I kept thinking, 'Boy, I hope this works, because if it doesn't I'll be in serious trouble.' The audience would have been rejecting me when I was taking my first departure from my father, venturing into a new area."

Does he still think about what would have happened had the film failed. "All the time," said Reiner, without a smile.

PEOPLE

Kennedys Say JFK Book Is Full of 'Falsehoods'

Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his three sisters say a new biography about President John F. Kennedy's youth, which includes allegations of child abuse, is full of "outrageous falsehoods." It is preposterous to call any of us "abused children," the senator and his sisters — Jean Smith, Eunice Shirer and Patricia Lawford — wrote in an article published in The New York Times. "Our parents gave us love, support and encouragement throughout their lives." The Kennedys referred to "misjudgments, mischaracterizations and insinuations" in Nigel Hamilton's book, "JFK: Reckless Youth."

The English artist Francis Bacon left his estate of more than £10 million (\$15.5 million) to his companion, John Edwards. Bacon died in April at 82 of a heart attack.

Julia Roberts, who hasn't starred in a movie since "Hook" last year, has signed a deal with the independent producer Joe Roth to develop projects. Roth, the former 20th Century Fox studio chief, moved to Disney as an independent producer last month.

The former wife of Sir Rudolf Bing wants to see the 91-year-old former impresario of the Metropolitan Opera despite a judge's annulment of their marriage in 1990. Lady Carroll Douglas Bing, who eloped with Bing in 1987, asked a New York court for an opportunity to see him. His lawyers say that Bing, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, has no memory of the marriage.

Fergie on the move: The Duchess of York visited a hospital in Poland and gave young cancer patients copies of her book for children, "Bugdie the Helicopter."

The jingle, the rumble and the roar sounded once again as Roy Acuff's "Wabash Cannonball" filled the air at a memorial service in Nashville for the man known as "the king of country music." Acuff, who died Nov. 23 at age 89, was honored by some of the genre's greatest: Chet Atkins, Eddy Arnold, Little Jimmy Dickens, Bill Monroe, Ricky Skaggs and Jeannie Seely.

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WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for Europe, North America, Middle East, and Oceania. Columns include location, temperature, and weather conditions.

WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for Asia, Latin America, and Oceania. Columns include location, temperature, and weather conditions.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution to a puzzle from Dec. 3.

BOOKS

THE CALL OF THE TOAD By Günter Grass. Translated by Ralph Manheim. Illustrated by the author. 248 pages. \$19.95. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Reviewed by Herbert Mitgang. NEVER expect the expected from Günter Grass, one reason he continues to be Germany's most original novelist and most engaged essayist. Grass is what Germans call a Querdenker, someone whose thoughts cut in a risky, original way against the grain.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott. AN OLD Latin maxim insists that the law does not concern itself with small things. But that does not apply to bridge players, who must worry about small cards and small scoring advantages. The player who throws away an imp or two usually escapes unpunished, but once in a while a small lapse has a big impact.

Advertisement for Van Cleef & Arpels jewelry. Features images of butterfly-shaped earrings and necklaces. Text: 'Van Cleef & Arpels signent vos plus beaux Anniversaires.' 'Ti est des signatures auxquelles on tient.'

Advertisement for Russian Eggs at the Library of Congress. Text: 'WASHINGTON — At first glance, the hand-painted lacquered egg on sale at the Library of Congress gift shop seems like novel souvenirs of Washington, highlighting attractions like the White House, the Supreme Court and the Capitol.'

Advertisement for Russian Eggs at the Library of Congress. Text: 'Each egg is signed and there is a 1,300-piece limited edition of each design. They sell for \$29.50 apiece. There's a lot of very bad Russian merchandise out there,' says Nicholas Roberts, one of the partners of Alexandra International, which sells its finely crafted products primarily through jewelry stores and museum shops, like Washington's Hillwood Museum and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.'